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THE TIMES

SATURDAY DECEMBER 29 1984

20p

Portfolio

There is no weekly £20,000 prize in *The Times* Portfolio competition today because of the Christmas break. However, there is the £2,000 daily prize to be won as usual. Yesterday's £2,000 was won by Mrs Vnitha Hegde, of North Wembley, London. Today's list, page 18; rules and how to play, back page Information Service.

Redundancy rush at shipyards

Union leaders fighting to maintain Britain's shipyards at their present size are reported to be shocked by the response of workers at Swan Hunter's Tyneside yards to voluntary redundancy requests. The company is likely to have its call for 2,100 redundancies oversubscribed. Page 2

Beirut fury over mother's suicide

The suicide of a Beirut mother, distraught over the kidnap of her 13-year-old son, provoked demonstrations by angry Muslim sympathizers. They blocked Beirut's crossing points and hijacked buses Page 4

Dalyell answered

A Home Office minister rejected as totally unfounded allegations by Mr Tam Dalyell, Labour MP, that blundering intelligence officers killed an elderly woman earlier this year Page 2

Diplomatic drug

The Colombian President launched a top-level inquiry after reports that cocaine had been smuggled into Spain in a diplomatic bag Page 4

Steel deal

The EEC has settled a long-running dispute with the United States over US import curbs on community steel pipes and tubes Earlier report, page 19

Peckinpah dies

Sam Peckinpah, the American film director known for his vivid depictions of violence in films like *Straw Dogs*, died in Los Angeles aged 59.

Wogan farewell

Terry Wogan said farewell to millions of BBC Radio 2 listeners after 12 years as one of Britain's favourite disc jockeys Page 3

Kasparov leads

The thirty-sixth game of the world chess championship was adjourned with Gary Kasparov, the challenger, holding a one-pawn advantage Earlier report, page 4



Argentine anger

Señor Dante Caputo, Argentina's Foreign Minister, has reacted sharply to Mrs Thatcher's Christmas speech to the Falklands, describing it as arrogant Page 4

Benefits change

Pensions and child benefits are among the most likely candidates for change in the field of personal finance next year. A team of experts give their predictions for 1985 Family Money, page 22, 23

Rally saved

The 1985 Monte Carlo Rally will go ahead after all, as the result of an initiative by the French Federation of Sports Cars Page 25

Kapil kept out

Kapil Dev, the Indian cricketer, will after all miss the third Test match against England starting in Calcutta on Monday despite pressure on the selectors to restore him

Gandhi swept back to power with emphatic majority

From Michael Hamlyn, Delhi

With a barrage of raucous bands and competing batteries of drums, the Congress (Indira) party of Mr Rajiv Gandhi last night celebrated a dramatic victory in the three-day general election.

With over a third of the results declared early this morning, the Prime Minister's party had won 78 per cent of the seats decided. Though this proportion may not persist through the second day's counting today it seeks likely that the forecasts of a very large majority will be fulfilled.

Late last night computer experts on Indian television forecast that Mr Gandhi would end up with a two thirds majority at least – enough to amend the constitution if he should wish to.

It could even be the biggest victory of any general election since independence. The previous record was held by Mr Gandhi's grandfather, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, who won the 1957 election with 75 per cent of the seats (371 of 490).

The Prime Minister took the news of his victories quietly at his home in the centre of New Delhi, and it was announced that he would be reconstructing his Council of Ministers before the turn of the year.

His present council is largely the one he inherited from his mother and he is known to be anxious to present a new team and new image.

Most prominent of the Opposition leaders to fall was Mr Atal Behari Vajpayee, president of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP). He used to sit for a Delhi constituency, but hoping to improve his chances moved to Gwalior in Mahdya Pradesh.

Congress put up Mr Madhavarao Scindia, the former Maharaja of Gwalior, against him. Mr Scindia had never lost an election in his own princedom, whether running as Congress, BJP or independent. He duly won again, part of what was building up to be a clean sweep of all 38 seats in the state.

Mr Chandia Shekhar, the Janata Party leader, was trailing in the count for his constituency in Uttar Pradesh. Only the 83-year-old former prime minister, Choudhury Charan Singh, and another former chief minister of the state appeared to be holding on for the Opposition in the state.

STATE OF THE PARTIES

Total seats to be declared	**508**
Results declared	**108**
Congress (I)	84
Janata Party	4
Communist Party of India (Marxist)	1
Bharatiya Janata Party (right)	1
Indian Congress (Socialist)	1
Telugu Desam (regional)	5
Other parties	10
Independents	2

In the Prime Minister's own constituency of Amethi late last night he was 76,000 votes ahead of Mrs Menaka Gandhi, his estranged sister-in-law. She said she would petition the courts for a new poll in the constituency, claiming widespread ballot-forging by Congress (I).

In Orissa in the east another Janata leader, Mr Biju Patnaik, was trailing badly. But Mr Madhu Dandavate won in Maharashtra for Janata, and Mr Sharad Pawar, leader of Congress (S), was well ahead.

Also in the east, early returns showed the Communist domination of West Bengal under threat. In 1980 Congress (I) only won four seats; last night it was ahead in 12 of the 24 seats at stake.

Film star candidates all appeared to be doing well. Mr Sunil Dutt, fighting for Congress (I) in Bombay, was more than 100,000 votes ahead.

The bad news for Mr Gandhi came principally from Andhra Pradesh, where Mr N. T. Rama Rao, the veteran film star Chief Minister, seemed likely to repeat the smashing success of the 1983 to the State Assembly.

Mrs Indira Gandhi made virtually a clean sweep of the state in 1980. Last night Mr Rama Rao's Telegu Desam party was leading in 24 of the 40 constituencies where elections could take place.

A number of ministers are likely to be casualties in the state, including the imposing figure of Mr P. V. Narasimha Rao, the Home Minister. However, Mr Narasimha Rao had wisely taken the precaution of fighting a second seat in Maharashtra which won by a huge margin. Mr P. Shiv Shankar, Energy Minister, and Mr P. Venkata Subbiah, Minister of State in the home ministry, also looked likely losers.

Ministers also lost in the neighbouring state of Karnataka, which has been ruled by a Janata-led coalition since 1983.



Gift of words: Mr Terry Waite, the Archbishop of Canterbury's envoy to Colonel Gadaffi, presenting Dr Robert Runcie yesterday with an inscribed Koran from the Libyan leader. Report, page 2. (Photograph: Tony Weaver).

Opec united over checks on output

From David Young
Geneva

Opec unanimously agreed a new system of monitoring its members' oil production yesterday, in a move aimed at restoring the world's confidence in its ability to control its price structure and oil output.

Nigeria, which is already out of step with its Opec colleagues on prices and recent output cuts, became the last of the 13 member countries to accept the new formula in Geneva.

Details have still to be finalized on how the new system of policing members' output will operate, but all have accepted that independent inspectors will have full access to production records, delivery schedules and price arrangements.

All products would be covered and any barter deals will be monitored.

Dr Suproto, the Opec president and Indonesian oil minister, said yesterday that Opec will now consider what sanctions could be applied against members who breach their quota agreements.

A four-man committee is to be set up to administer the monitoring scheme, which will be run with the help of outside accountants and advisers. Indonesia will represent Asia; Venezuela, Latin America; and representatives of the Gulf States and Africa have still to be chosen.

Opec is hoping that the world oil market will react favourably to its determination to maintain prices and output and is hoping for a narrowing or even closing of the gap between spot market prices and prices charged on term contracts.

The organization is still convinced that the oil demand will rise as temperatures drop in the industrialized world this winter.

However, there is still a fear that North Sea producers, now undercutting the official Opec marker price of $29, will be tempted to cover losses on spot market trading by announcing price cuts

BL need state cash for new models

By Clifford Webb, Motoring Correspondent

BL has told the Government that if the steady improvement of its Austin Rover group is to continue, in the face of a growing challenge from General Motors of America, more public funding will be necessary to develop the next generation of new cars.

The news will come as a shock to government supporters who thought that the taxpayer had made his last contribution to a company which has received £2.3 billion of state aid since it was taken into public ownership in 1975.

The final tranche of government aid was drawn by BL 18 months ago. Since then Jaguar has been sold for £297 million and the profitable Unipart subsidiary is expected to follow it into private ownership next year.

But Austin Rover, with a tiny £300,000 operating profit in the first half of the financial year, is still a substantial loss maker.

The BL corporate plan covering 1985 to 1990 has just been submitted to the government. It warns that if Austin Rover is to resist the challenge of General Motors for its second place to Ford, it must find hundreds of millions of pounds to invest in new models.

In the past five years Austin Rover has, with one exception, replaced its range, starting with the Metro, followed by the Triumph Acclaim (now the Rover 200), Maestro and the Montego. Project XX, the replacement for the big Rover saloon, which will be launched jointly with Honda of Japan late next year, will be the last model developed with existing government funding.

To maintain a rolling programme of at least one new model every two years, it is estimated Austin Rover will need to invest a minimum of £150 million a year, increasing to £200 million within three years.

Despite continuing losses BL's balance sheet has been basically strong. Thanks to state aid it has not been saddled with heavy interest payments on privately-raised loans. However, that position is changing and it must now go the City and pay competitive rates for funds.

Its ability to do this has been damaged by the loss of Jaguar profits and will be further damaged when Unipart is privatized.

A public commitment from the Government to provide further funding on evidence of urgent need, would provide the additional backing BL needs when it goes to the banks.

Coal board predicts pithead ballots

By Barrie Clement
Labour Reporter

National Coal Board officials are predicting that thee could be pit head ballots within the next few weeks at the heart of the miners' strike in Yorkshire.

Board strategists detect moves in smaller collieries to arrange the kind of referendum which took place at Bersham colliery in North Wales.

All such votes have been declared unconstitutional by the National Union of Mineworkers, but the board has privately told back-to-work activists that premises and facilities would be made available where necessary.

The board does not argue that larger pits will conduct votes, but believes that isolated ballots would receive a great deal of publicity and encourage pitmen to get back.

Officials have received indications that some miners would be prepared to organize votes. It is a question of ascertaining the degree of support for such moves.

Meanwhile the board is attempting to distance itself from the National Working Miners' Committee, because of their increasing reputation as the "bosses' men".

It is hoped that strong and traditionally faithful NUM members will increasingly take over the job of persuading men to go back to work.

The committee is sending speakers out to South Wales, Northumberland and Yorkshire in an attempt to encourage men back to work when collieries begin to open between January 2 and 7.

Although the vote at Bersham went in favour of the strike, fewer than half voted and the overwhelming majority are back at work.

'Forgeries' claim, page 2

Minister implicated in priest's killing

From Roger Boyes, Torun, Poland

For the first time since the murder of Father Jerzy Popieluszko, the Solidarity supporter, one of the accused killers has publicly implicated a senior politician in the killing.

Jerking his head nervously, a former secret police officer, Lieutenant Leszek Pekala, yesterday told a crowded courtroom that a deputy minister had spoken of "interrupting" the priest's political activities and that this was misinterpreted as a hint to take "illegal action" against Father Popieluszko.

The Torun courtroom waited tensely to hear more about the chain of command that is central to the outcome of this politically-sensitive crime, but Pekala kept his testimony deliberately vague.

During interrogations after his arrest on October 24, Pekala said that the acknowledged ringleader of the kidnap, Captain Grzegorz Piotrowski, had declared that the mission had the baking of a deputy minister. Yesterday he withdrew from the statement.

"I deny that Piotrowski ever told us there was the agreement of any deputy minister to killing Popieluszko ... one of the deputy ministers had spoken of interrupting Popieluszko's activities, and I inadvertently interpreted this as an illegal action," he said.

The role of the deputy minister, who was not named, is important to Pekala's defence because his argument is essentially that although he took part in killing the priest, he had not originally intended to do so. At the moment of crisis, according to Pekala, he simply obeyed orders from Piotrowski which he believed to have high-level authority.

The testimony showed, however, that Pekala was on swampy ground in his attempt to show the credibility of the orders to kill the priest. The deputy minister, whose comments had in any case been relayed second-hand to Pekala, had spolen only of "interrupting" the priest's activities.

The deputy director of the church monitoring division of the secret police, Colonel Adam Pietrususzka, who is also accused of complicity in the murder, had approved action against the priest that could "endanger hishealth", but did not order murder. Only Captain Piotrowski had ordered the killing directly.

Pekala gave a graphic and dramatic account of the kidnap on October 19 and explained how, in his view, it had ended with murder.

After they had abducted the priest, he was knocked to the ground, trussed and put in the boot of the get-away vehicle, which was driven by Pekala.

The priest tried several times to escape, either by forcing hisbody against the boot lid or once when he was lifted from the car and allowed to sit in a forest.

Continued on back page, col 1

Black ice and fog endanger drivers

Black ice, dense fog and snow brought treacherous conditions for motorists again throughout Britain yesterday. Freezing weather is expected at the weekend, with an increase in thick patchy fog in some areas.

The Automobile Association said yesterday, that despite repeated warnings, many motorists were driving without headlights, or just side-lights.

A thick blanket of fog shrouded London and the South-east, and in some areas visibility was down to 25 yards. The Dartford tunnel was affected and motorways had speed restrictions and warning lights in operation.

Two people died and two others were seriously injured when a lorry crossed the central reservation into the M6 southbound carriageway between Birmingham and Coventry, colliding with a car and lorry.

The carriageway was closed for a while. Warwickshire police said no speed restrictions were in operation, but there had been ice warnings and the motorway had been gritted.

In Worcestershire, West Mercia police reported that roads in Redditch were "like a skidpan" and freezing fog had reduced visibility to 30 yards in places.

Fog affected the Brecon and Carmarthen in Wales and the weather is expected to worsen, with a drop in temperature causing black ice. The only main road in Wales closed was that over the Horseshoe Pass, near Llangollen.

No new snowfalls were reported, but there was snow on roads in Wales, west Scotland and North-west England.

At Heathrow airport flights were delayed and diverted as fog reduced visibility on the main runways to about 150 metres. Landings were restricted to aircraft with category three, the most sophisticated electronic landing gear.

Pound falls 16 points to 1.1627

By David Smith
Economics Correspondent

The pound fell further yesterday to a new closing low in London of $1.1627 against the dollar, 16 points down on the day.

Dollar strength pushed the pound to $1.1570 during the day's trading but there was a later recovery on hopes of optimistic oil price news from the Opec meeting in Geneva.

The sterling index, a measure of the pound's average value, fell 0.1 to 73.2.

The pound's weakness did not worry the stock market. In thin holiday trading, shares rose to a new high, the FT 30-share index rising by 16.2 to 945.2.

Interest rates on the London money markets have moved upwards during the recent bout of sterling weakness, and the outlook for interest rates in the New Year has become more gloomy.

Details, page 19

200 years on, a daily glimpse of times past

By Robin Young

From next Wednesday *The Times* will be presenting daily news reports culled from our issues of the last 200 years, as a feature to celebrate the paper's bicentenary year in 1985.

Each excerpt will be from a paper of corresponding date in one of the year's since the publication began on January 1, 1785 – a sort of "on this day ..." sampler of how history appeared in the pages of *The Times*.

It will also be an exposition of how this paper has, despite its reputation for thundering, discharged its primary function, that of reporting the news.

Some of the chosen stories are of world cataclysms, others disasters on a more domestic scale, and some excitements of the day that history has almost forgotten. They will demonstrate how *The Times* summarized, crystallized or dramatized events that shocked, horrified, amazed or sometimes merely entertained the world.

In the coming month, for example, readers will be reminded of risings in Berlin, riots in St Petersburg and massacres in Macedonia, but also of a Scottish celebration in Moscow, a skating disaster in Regent's Park and the time when people queued to pay income tax.

We will also be recalling in January the deaths of world leaders, the birth of world institutions, a disastrous defeat in the Balkans and a British triumph in the air.

The items will be as various as every day's news, and chosen from the daily pageant of our pages to provide the fullest flavour of events that were all special on their day.

Every day is a multifarious anniversary, and some dates offered an embarrassing choice of riches. After a painstaking search among 200 years of newspaper files, our researcher is also willing to concede that some dates are less eventful than others.

January 12, he believes, has customarily been one of the quietest days of the year, but that has not prevented his finding a fine piece of reportage with which to celebrate it.

The daily calendar of history taken from *The Times* starts on Wednesday with an account of the advent of soup kitchens in London. It is, for the moment, for readers to guess from which year's paper that will come. On Thursday we record the surrender of a colonial raider and on Friday a famous London seige.

Every excerpt will be headed with the coat of arms appropriate to the *The Times* of its original date of publication, and it will appear in the outside column of the Letters page where, we hope, it will quickly become as compulsively attractive a feature as the letters themselves.

Gibraltar talks open in Bern on February 5

The Swiss Government announced last night that it had agreed to be the host for talks between Britain and Spain on the future of Gibraltar, in Bern on February 5 and 6 (Henry Stanhope writes).

Foreign Office sources confirming the meeting between Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Foreign Secretary and Señor Fernando Moran, the Spanish Foreign Minister, said that they expected all restrictions on the frontier between Spain and Gibraltar to be lifted simultaneously.

Sir Joshua Hassan, Gibraltar's Chief Minister, is expected to accompany Sir Geoffrey

THE TIMES

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Sporting chance
The Times Calendar of World Sport – events, dates, places for 1985
Pages 14 and 15

The dollar disaster



How imports have made Wall Street suffer during the past 12 months
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Time to relax again
Need another holiday? Try a trip to Turkey or sample the Seine country
Page 10

Monday

Cakes and ale for ever
Bernard Levin launches a counter-revolution against the killjoy fanatics

So that was 1984
The Times' own distinctive guide to events of the year

Union leaders shocked by shipyard men's rush for redundancy

By Edward Townsend, Industrial Correspondent

Union leaders prepared to fight to preserve the merchant and warship building industry at its present size were said yesterday to be shocked at the overwhelming acceptance by Tyneside workers of voluntary redundancy.

Swan Hunter, the composite yard which has just built the Atlantic Conveyor replacement for the one sunk in the Falklands war, is likely to have its call for 2,100 redundancies oversubscribed. A leading shop steward said there would be no difficulty meeting the target.

Mr Bob Welford, secretary of the Confederation of Shipbuilding and Engineering Unions at Swan's four yards, said: "I am disappointed that so many men have volunteered to get out of the industry.

"The trouble is that many of them no longer believe Swan's has a future, others were a bit worried that the severance scheme might be stopped so they would lose if they didn't go now, and others were just fed up with the way the industry is going."

Mr Graham Day, British Shipbuilders chairman, has been told by the Government that the warship yards, which have been conspicuously profitable compared with the deficits in the merchant shipbuilding yards, must be sold to private investors; much progress, in that direction is expected by the spring. Swan Hunter is one of the yards most likely to face early sale.

Mr Welford described as a disgrace the prospect of men in their twenties leaving Swan's under voluntary severance schemes.

They should be the backbone of the future Tyne workforce, he said. "They are not even benefiting financially from it. They will only get £2,000 to £3,000 at the most, and that won't last long."

Swan's will begin next year with an order book at its lowest since nationalization. After the new Atlantic Conveyor leaves in January the yard will be left with the fitting out of the carrier HMS Ark Royal and the building of two Type 22 frigates, replacements for HMS Sheffield and HMS Coventry lost in the Falklands.

Mr Alex Marsh, Swan's managing director, said the yard hoped to win orders in the new year for two more Type 22 Frigates.

Inquiry into NUJ men's pensions

By Barrie Clement
Labour Reporter

Mr Ken Ashton, general secretary of the National Union of Journalists, and Mr Naranjin Paik, its finance officer, will remain on paid leave pending the outcome of an inquiry into their pension arrangements. A four-man team from the union's executive is due to start today a month-long investigation.

Mr Ashton and Mr Paik are accused of negotiating enhanced pensions without the full knowledge and approval of the national leadership.

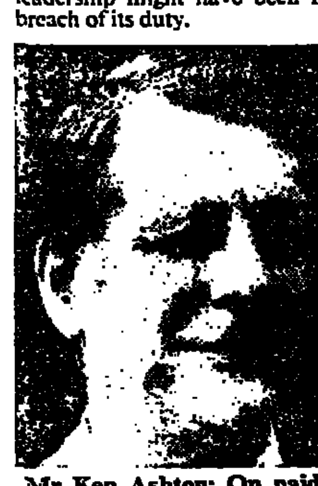
The general secretary, who earns about £20,000 a year, is said to have arranged a pension equal to two-thirds of his salary on retirement, compared with a normal figure of about a third.

The deal was apparently approved by the staff committee, and endorsed by the executive, but there appears to be some doubt as to whether they were aware of the full implications of the decision. The membership of the staff committee and executive has changed since the application was processed a year ago.

The two men are understood to be adamant that they went through all the constitutional processes in order to have the deal approved. Their opponents, however, are seeking a strong disciplinary line from the executive if the four investigators present a critical report to the executive at the end of next month.

Mr Ashton in particular has encountered severe criticism from left-wingers on the executive and they were prominent among those pressing for an investigation when the executive discussed the matter before Christmas.

It is understood that the allegations came to the attention of the executive when one of the trustees of the pension fund wrote to the union's headquarters suggesting that the leadership might have been in breach of its duty.


Mr Ken Ashton: On paid leave

Protesters arrested inside military base

By Pat Healy

A number of people were arrested yesterday inside the military base at Alconbury, Cambridgeshire during demonstrations and worship by members of Christian CND to mark Holy Innocents Day.

Others were arrested outside the base for obstructing the highway after repeatedly sitting down or lying in the road leading to the main gate of the base.

The Ministry of Defence said later that 29 people were found on the base during the day, of whom two were being questioned last night by Ministry of Defence police on suspicion of criminal damage. A total of 17 were arrested and released without charge after questioning. The remainder were ejected from the base. Civilian police arrested 12 people outside the base.

About 60 members of Christian CND held a service outside the base, which is believed to be designated as a support base for the cruise missiles to be sited at RAF Molesworth near by. Their placards included one declaring: "Herod killed babies indiscriminately. Nuclear war will do the same."

They marched to he main gate of the base to sing hymns while others attemped to enter the base. Four succeeded in doing so, by climbing through a hole in the fence which had been cut the previous night "under cover of fog, darkness and carol singing."

All four were quickly removed by the police, who had to use bolt cutters to remove chains with which other Christian CND members had linked themselves while sitting down in the road.

Mr Paul Johns, chairperson of Christian CND, said Holy Innocents Day was remembered by Christians as the day King Herod had ordered the deaths of hundreds of children for the sake of his own security.

"The fear and mistrust between nations today meant that innocent children continued to die because the superpowers preferred to spend vast sums on protecting themselves from each other and neglected the world's poor.

"We challenge the nuclear powers to take the Christmas message of peace on earth seriously, to come to the new year disarmament talks with genuine disarmament initiatives and not with self justified propaganda," Mr Johns said.

Alliance's conditions for power

By John Winder

The conditions upon which an Alliance grouping holding the balance of power after a general election would approach one of its rivals to form a government were outlined by Dr David Owen, Leader of the Social Democratic Party, yesterday.

He said that the Alliance's demands would be "constitutionally proper", and it would approach the party with the largest number of votes.

If that were the Conservatives, the Alliance would say that they must take more account of unemployment and create more jobs, particularly for school leavers.

If it were the Labour Party, the emphasis would be on changes in Labour's "deeply damaging" foreign policy and "unacceptable" defence policy.

In the course of his interview, on BBC Radio's *The World at One*, Dr Owen criticized Mrs Margaret Thatcher's continued "Fortress Falklands" policy.

"She is wrong to give paramountcy to the Falkland Islanders which effectively means they have a veto", he said.

Strike at Ford is over

The six-week strike by 270 sewing machinists, which cost the Ford Motor Company £249 million at showroom prices is over.

*The 150 seat-cover machin*ists at Dagenham and their 120 colleagues at Halewood voted yesterday to accept a peace formula worked out between the management and leaders of the Transport and General Workers' Union.

The workers, mostly women, want to be graded as skilled rather than unskilled and have won their argument that there should be independent arbitration.

In return, the company has gained an assurance from the union that the case would not be treated as a precedent for grievances by other groups of workers.

About 43,400 vehicles were lost because of the dispute and more than 10,000 other workers were laid off with the loss of about £4 million in wages.

Initially, the company rejected the idea of independent arbitration and insisted that the agreed management procedure for assessing skills should be used.

Archbishop quotes Koran at Gadaffi

By Clifford Longley
Religious Affairs
Correspondent

The Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr Robert Runcie, yesterday quoted some well-chosen words from the Koran at Colonel Gadaffi of Libya, and welcomed his "encouraging assurances" that the four British "hostages" would soon be freed.

Dr Runcie quoted: "It is not God's way to have your trust be disappointed, nor to have your faith fruitless, for God is gentle towards mankind, and merciful."

That was his response, slightly stage-managed to have effect in Libya, after he received a full report from his envoy Mr Terry Waite, who returned from Tripoli on Thursday.

Mr Waite came bearing a gift, a copy of the Koran with a message from Colonel Gadaffi inscribed in Arabic in it.

It said: "My greetings and congratulations for the new year, hoping it will be a year of blessing for humanity." He wrote it on Christmas Day, when he discussed with Mr Waite the hostages' position and other matters of mutual interest. These, it emerged yesterday, included an extended conversation about the influence of Greek philosophy on Islam and Christianity.

One message Mr Waite brought back was that Colonel Gadaffi was concerned about Libyan students in Britain, who were "lonely, isolated, and fearful", particularly now there was no Libyan People's Bureau in London. Mr Waite agreed to raise the matter in London, saying he thought the British churches would be able to organize some counselling

Since his return the secretary of the British Council of Churches, Dr Philip Morgan, has agreed in principle to set up some such system, based on local councils of churches. Details are being worked out.

Mr Waite has also been in touch with the Foreign Office, and has spoken to Mr Richard Luce, Minister of State with responsibility for Arab affairs. Mr Luce congratulated him on the skill with which he had carried out his mission.

The Foreign Office said that Mr Waite had not represented the Government, adding that the hostages' release would be "a constructive and positive development." That was taken as a hint that the Government could be ready to relax some of the restrictions that followed the siege at the People's Bureau and the killing of WPC Yvonne Fletcher.


Curtain call: Ian McCurrach, who plays Pip, and Yolande Palfrey, the younger Estella, before going on stage in The Old Vic production of *Great Expectations*, which opened on Boxing Day (Photograph: Dod Miller).

Five arrested over raid on grave

Police have arrested five people in connection with the desecration of the grave of the tenth Duke of Beaufort, after a number of raids in Hertfordshire and north London, it was disclosed yesterday. The arrests were made late on Thursday night.

It is understood that several articles from the Beaufort family cemetery have been recovered, including the wooden cross stolen from the grave site at Badminton Parish Church, Avon, on Boxing Day.

A group calling itself the Hunt Retribution Squad claimed responsibility for trying to dig up the duke's body. The duke, who was the Master of the Beaufort Hunt, died in February, aged 83.

The raids were carried out by Avon and Somerset police, and described as "quite successful" by a spokesman. It is not clear whether charges will be brought against any of the five who have been detained.

Police would not release the names of the detainees, but confirmed that they were being held for questioning about the incident.

The five, including one woman, were transferred to a north Bristol police station.

Dalyell allegations rejected

By Stewart Tendler, Crime Reporter

A Home Office minister denied last night allegations that blundering British intelligence officers killed Miss Hilda Murrell, who was found dead near her home in Shrewsbury in March.

The denial was made by Mr Giles Shaw, Minister of State, in a letter to Mr Tam Dalyell, Labour MP for Linlithgow. Mr Dalyell asked Mr Shaw during a Commons debate last week to investigate the death when he suggested Miss Murrell interrupted a search of her home.

Mr Dalyell said a search was made for papers linked to the sinking of the General Belgrano because Miss Murrell, a noted rose grower and opponent of nuclear power, was related to a naval officer involved in the operation against the Argentine cruiser.

In his letter Mr Shaw, who received a report from West Mercia police over Christmas, told Mr Dalyell: "I am able to state unreservedly that your allegations about the intelligence services being involved are totally without foundation."

Mr Shaw said the involvement of Special Branch officers in the police investigation had been raised and he understood from the West Mercia police that they had been consulted during an early stage

Mr Shaw said Special Branch was involved because there were suggestions "of some sort of political motive relating to the Sizewell B inquiry. As you so clearly state such suggestions were absurd, but it was right for the police to eliminate this possibility in the investigation of a most serious crime. Once this possibility had been eliminated the Special Branch were not further involved."

Mr Dalyell said last night he was not satisfied with the answer.

Mr Dalyell is to meet police officers from West Mercia on January 15.

Checking out: Mr Lund Hawsen, aged 68, who retires on Monday as general manager of Claridge's hotel in London. He began working for the hotel in 1939 after leaving Denmark. (Photograph: John Voos)

Glasgow anger over grants

By Ronald Faux

Glasgow District Council is angry about the city's exclusion from a £12 million grant by the Government for local authority housing programmes.

Most of the money, which will be paid in the present financial year, is for essential repairs to council houses and improvement grants.

Glasgow council, the largest housing authority in Scotland, calculates that £200 million is needed immediately to bring its council housing back to good condition. It says that it would take £80 million to ensure that every house and flat is proofed against wind and weather.

Mrs Jean McFadden, leader of the ruling Labour group, said that the exclusion was outrageous and was the penalty for the council's decision to freeze rents.

Police investigating forged national coal board letter

By Paul Vallely

The police are investigation a forged letter, purporting to come from the National Coal Board, which has been sent to working miners in Yorkshire.

The letter, which is being widely circulated among strikers in other coalfields as proof of the board's "deceitful unreliability", tells working miners that their full protection cannont be guaranteed away from the board's premises.

It also says that those who have returned to work may have to move, at their own expense, to different coalfields when the strike is over.

The letter bears the signature of Mr Alfred Tuke, the board's Doncaster area director. Yesterday he condemned the letter as a "clever, mischief-making forgery".

South Yorkshire police confirmed that the origin was being investigated.

The letter states:

> I can assure you that the board will endeavour to protect you from any intimidation . . . in all honesty. this will not last for the rest of your life, and indeed will be continued for only a few weeks after the strike.
>
> It may become necessary to move you to another area or make other arrangements immediately the strike ends. The colliery manager will be speaking to you about this matter. The board will of course pay you the normal transferred worker's allowance but I regret we will not be able to find new accommodation [sic] or pay any removal costs.
>
> If it becomes necessary for you to be transferred more than once to avoid further intimidation at your new pit, then we will of course consider the situation at that time.

The letter sent to 30 working miners at Brodsworth colliery, near Doncaster, five weeks ago, but it is now being circulated among strikers in the Durham, Derbyshire, and South Wales, where, according to coal board *officials, it is believed to be* genuine and "proof of the perfidy and deceitful unreliability of the NCB. Little do they know it is proof of the dirty tricks of their own union members."

Yesterday Mr Tuke said: "It is my signature and it is coal board notepaper. They were taken from a genuine letter I sent out to all the workforce in July."

Mr Tuke wrote to all the working miners concerned and told them the letter was a forgery. "The letter is a complete fabrication aimed at playing on men's fears for the future."

The production and circulation of the document is the latest move in the propaganda battle to win the hearts and minds of the indecisive members of the National Union of Mineworkers.

It seems timed to preempt the board's advertising campaign which begins in the popular and local press on Monday and aims to temp strikers back to work with the carrot of virtually tax-free wages for the rest of the financial year.

The union and the board feel that there is all to play for in the coming weeks when the pre-Christmas "drift back to work" will either be accelerated or stemmed. The union makes much of the idea that many of those who returned to work for Christmas bonuses will be back on strike next week.

Union oficials talk readily of strikers who have returned to work and then later rejoined the strike, but examples of such men are hard to find.

One such miner at a pit in the Durham coalfield went back to work for only two days, local strikers say, before deciding that the strike was right. In the privacy of his own home the man, who asked that neither his name nor his colliery should be disclosed, told a different story.

"I was out because of loyalty to the union, but when Scargill refused the Nacods settlement I decided to go back. Immediately there were threatening phone calls to my mother, so I rejoined the strike to spare her."

Last night, Mr J H Thompson, an executive member of the union's Yorkshire area, was confident that the 120,000 strikers would remain resolute. That was why, he said, the union did not need to involve itself in forgery. "That was nothing to do with the NUM."

Holiday for miners' children

Two charter flights from Britain landed yesterday at Milan and Bologna airports with 100 British miners' children on board who have been invited for new year holidays by families of Italian trade unionists.

Holiday hospitality is one feature of a campaign of solidarity with striking miners launched by Italian trade unions, led by the left-wing *confederation* CGIL.

Collections of money are being taken among union members for the TUC relief fund for miners' families.

Earlier in december, Mrs Anne Scargill, wife of Mr Arthur Scargill, president of the miners' union, spent six days touring Italy at the invitation of the women's sections of the three main trade union confederations.

She was accompanied by Mrs Marsha Marshall another miners' wife, and was received by the president (speaker) of the Chamber of Deputies, and by regional premiers and town mayors in different parts of the country.

● Belfast dockers and their employers yesterday ridiculed claims by officials in the National Union of Seamen that they had been "bought off" by huge bonuses to handle foreign coal shipments to Northern Ireland during the miners' dispute.

Mr John Nelson, NUS strike co-ordinator with the National Union of Mineworkers, had criticized what he called the "mercenary" attitude of dockers *in Belfast and said they* were earning up to £1,100 a week breaking a trade union embargo on shipments to Belfast.

● Mr Dennis Skinner, Labour MP for Bolsover, who is giving all his salary to the National Union of Mineworkers, yesterday called on all other Labour MPs to give the 5 per cent pay increase they will receive on New Year's Day to the same cause.

● Prompt action by pit deputies, mine rescue men and 12 working miners called in from holiday yesterday saved Holditch colliery, Newcastle-under-Lyme, from a serious fire.

Apology to Scargill for Hitler gibe

By A Staff Reporter

Mr Arthur Scargill, the miners' leader, has received an apology from Capital, a London commercial radio station, after a disc jockey described him as "Hitler number two".

But Capital said yesterday that it did not intend to broadcast a public retraction because the comment was made as light-hearted banter, and an on-air correction would appear to make it serious.

Miss Harriet Harman, Labour MP for Peckham, complained to the Independent Broadcasting Authority about the remark, made on December 1 by Greg Edwards while handing over to another presenter.

The director general of the IBA, Mr John Whitney, a former managing director of Capital, replied: "We find (the remarks) unacceptable. We have spoken to Capital management and understand that the presenter will be spoken to in the strongest terms and that Mr Scargill will be written to with an apology on behalf of the station."

Miss Harman welcomed the comments yesterday, but said that Capital ought to broadcast an apology.

"Hundreds of thousands of Londoners would have herad this libel against Mr Scargill. Capital owe him a public apology. It is a sad reflection on the media if some broadcasters now feel they can libel Mr Scargill freely. Such remarks would never have been made about Mr MacGregor, the coal board chairman. But if they had there would have been a public apology the next day."

Capital said that Miss Harman was the only person to complain. "Certainly we have talked to the disc jockey concerned, but we feel that if you go back on light-hearted banter, you lend it a weight which would be counterproductive. We have written to Mr Scargill to apologize and we thought Miss Harman was satisfied with that."

Charities: 3

Voluntary groups fear future

The Government's plans to abolish the GLC and control council rates will hurt the voluntary sector.

By David Walker

This year the Greater London Council is supporting 2,000 voluntary groups, ranging from thoroughly respectable and traditional bodies such as Age Concern to new and controversial groups such as the Lewisham Mobile Creche Project, one of the aims of which is to eradicate sexism and racism in the play materials of under-fives.

Old and new, these bodies are united in their fears that the abolition of the GLC planned for April 1986 will severely curtail their operations. In response to the generosity of the GLC – and the metropolitan counties and the Labour-controlled London boroughs – a new type of voluntary group has grown up promoting feminism or the interests of ethnic groups.

According to Ms Lesley Marks, of the London Council for Voluntary Service, ethnic groups had for years been knocking on the doors of the boroughs asking for support but were refused because their activities did not fall tidily within departmental or geographical boundaries. Now the GLC has endowed them.

One venture is the Feminist Library located in Hungerford House on the Victoria Embankment, with three full-time workers completely dependent on GLC money. Its books, from Charlotte Bronte to the latest lesbian tract, are said to be of a kind women find it difficult to get from local libraries. "It will be desperate, absolutely desperate, if GLC funding is withdrawn", a spokeswoman said.

But Mr Patrick Jenkin, Secretary of State for the Environment, may view this as a beneficial result of abolition; he referred again recently to "loony groups" receiving ratepayers' money. He is worried, however, about the effect of abolition on the respectable end of the voluntary sector and the Government has drawn up a convoluted scheme to try to mitigate the effects of the loss of the GLC's £53 million a year.

The plan is to pay £3.75 million a year directly out of central funds for a transitional period of four years after abolition; in addition the Government will compel all boroughs and districts to make a contribution to voluntary group funding, provided two-thirds of them can agree on the suitability of a project. The National Council for Voluntary Organizations says the plan is unworkable

Defenders of the GLC point out that for every pound spent on fringe groups, several pounds go on sensible social service work with the homeless, drug abusers, the elderly and disabled.

Similarly, the Greater Manchester Metropolitan County now spends £33,000 a year on marriage guidance work, £216,000 on youth clubs, £207,000 on law advice centres and £56,000 on groups providing support for victims of crime. Altogether the metropolitan counties are spending £14 million.

As well as the threat of abolition, voluntary groups stand to be the first to suffer the pangs of rate-capping. As the 18 capped councils cut their spending, which they will have to do sooner or later, they are likely initially to make savings outside the town hall walls. In London and the big cities, abolition could mean a shortfall of £47 million a year in funds for voluntary groups and that sum could be further increased as the Government's rates targets are met.

Concluded

Winning choir visits hospital

Expectant mothers in the Royal Victoria hospital, Belfast, had an unexpected visit yesterday from the BBC's Choir of the Year before its success in the nationwide competition was disclosed on BBC2 last night.

The 28-strong Renaissance Singers went on to the hospital to see one of their number who was nearing the end of her pregnancy there.

The Times overseas selling prices
Austria Sch 25; Belgium B frs 50; Canada $2.75; Canaries Pes 170; Cyprus 700 mils; Denmark Dkr 8.80; Finland Mkk 8.00; France Frs 7.00; Germany DM 4.50; Greece Dr 100; Holland Gl 3.40; Irish Republic 40p; Italy L 2200; Luxembourg Lf 38; Madeira Esc 125; Morocco Dir 9.00; Norway Kr 8.50; Pakistan Rps 18; Portugal Esc 125; Singapore $5.50; Spain Pes 170; Sweden Skr 8.50; Switzerland S Frs 3.00; Tunisia Dm 0.700; USA $1.75; Yugoslavia Din 150

Benn calls for annual parliamentary elections

By Philip Webster
Political Reporter

Mr Tony Benn has called for Parliament to be elected annually because, he says, allowing people to vote more often would offer a better way of controlling those who wield power.

In an article to appear in next month's edition of the magazine *Marxism Today* Mr Benn, Labour MP for Chesterfield, says that Britain needs a comprehensive, peaceful and democratic revolution.

Rejecting electoral deals designed merely to keep out a Tory government Mr Benn states that the only relevant change would be the Chartist demand for an annual Parliament.

He says that the greatest self-deception in the Labour movement is practised by those who pretend that the problem facing the country could be described in terms of "Thatcher and Thatcherism", and that to replace her and substitute an anti-Thatcherite government would be an adequate response.

They must remember that there were plenty of people queuing up to form such a government, including Mr Francis Pym, Dr David Owen and Mr David Steel.

Mr Benn said: "If Thatcher was in truth the real problem, the Brighton bombers might have solved it for us, yet all of us know that had she been the victim of an assassin, as Mrs Gandhi was, all our investment in building up Thatcher and Thatcherism would have been wasted.

"We would have had Tebbit and Tebbitsm, or Pym and Pymism, and we would have squandered our efforts by trying to focus our criticism against an individual."

Talks of Thatcher and Thatcherism is a diversion because what is happening is far more deep-seated, Mr Benn says. A decaying British capitalism is being forced by its own internal pressures to withdraw the gains it could afford to concede to working people during the post war boom.

"The present attack upon the trade unions, public services, local democracy, civil liberties, women, the black community, the gay community and the Irish is part of that process."

Mr Benn says that socialists must connect all the struggles now being fought on behalf of the miners, pensioners, women, the ethnic communities and the unemployed.

The road to a socialist victory does not lie in electoral manoeuvring, Mr Benn says, but in mobilizing the 10 million people who do not vote "who are our natural constituents because they are the ones, more that any other, who are repressed by our society."

Leading article, page 7

Marriage stays popular but more teenagers are delaying ceremony

By Richard Dowden

More young people are delaying getting married, according to a recent government statistical report, even though the evidence suggests that marriage is as popular as ever.

The number of teenagers getting married dropped sharply last year, according to preliminary statistics from the Office of Population Censuses and Surveys; about one woman in five marrying last year was in her teens, whereas the figure was one in three 10 years ago.

But more people marry in their mid to late twenties, the report says, which suggests that they are merely delaying marriage not rejecting it.

As women marrying under 21 are among those most likely to divorce, that delay could be a stablizing factor in the nation's marriage pattern.

Mr Robert Chester, senior lecturer in sociology at Hull University, said yesterday that there was a shift in the timing of marriage, with a tendency for people not to marry in their teens. "There has been an improvement in the availability of contraception and abortion and this has led to fewer 'shotgun weddings'.

"Unemployment and the recession are also factors which do not allow many young people to afford to get married. Also, many more women are staying on in education and there is an increasing tendency for them to work before they get married."

Church weddings are also still popular, with 69 per cent of those marrying for the first time doing so with a religious ceremony, although the number getting married in the Church of England has decreased slightly. In all, 51 per cent of marriages were celebrated with a religious ceremony.

More divorced people are getting remarried, according to the report, with a 2 per cent increase last year.

The divorce rate seemed to have settled down, Mr Chester said, "and the pattern, which stabilized some three or four years ago, seems to be that a third of marriages are remarriages and two thirds are first-time marriages".

That resumes a trend that was interrupted in 1981 and 1982. Only 19 per cent of remarriages for one or both partners were conducted with a religious ceremony, which perhaps indicates the difficulties of obtaining ecclesiastical permission to remarry in church.

There were 344,000 marriages last year, an increase of 0.5 per cent on 1982's figure.

Marriages 1983 (Monitor from the Office of Population Censuses and Surveys, St Catherine's House, 10 Kingsway, London WC2B 6JP; free).

Pilot saves jet struck by lightning

By A Staff Reporter

A pilot was praised yesterday by the Royal Air Force after his bravery saved his £2.5 million Hawk jet trainer which had been stuck by lightning.

Squadron Leader Bob Burrough was flying at abot 1,000ft when the aircraft was struck by lightning, affecting the engine controls. He took the jet up to nearly 5,000 ft before switching off the engine, which was producing excessive exhaust temperatures.

He then had difficulty in restarting the engine. A Ministry of Defence official said that if the engine had not restarted Squadron Leader Burrough would have had to eject from the aircraft.

The official said that it was rare for lightning to affect an aircraft to that extent and the pilot had acted very well, following normal procedures for dealing with such a situation.

The incident occurred during a flight from RAF Chivenor, Devon, on December 18. Squadron Leader Burrough was on leave yesterday and not available for comment.

Tory call for BBC cuts, not bigger fee

By David Hewson, Arts Correspondent

The Conservative Party's media committee is to call for large cuts in the size of the BBC as an alternative to raising the corporation's licence fee from £46 to £65.

The committee, thought to be to the left of most Conservative thinking in the House of Commons, suggests that the BBC scrap breakfast television, sell Radio 1 and the corporation's local radio stations, abandon game shows and charge advertising rates for sports sponsors whose events are shown on television.

Mr Tim Brinton, a former television newscaster now MP for Gravesham, has told the television trade weekly, *Broadcast*, that the proposed increase was seen as wholly unreasonable by the media committee, and there was widespread support for the proposal to be rejected.

A decision on the application is expected a few weeks before the present licence fee runs out at the end of March.

The £65 licence fee would be a severe charge on the family budget, Mr Brinton said. He was attempting to generate an urgent interest in Parliament and the country to debate the future of public broadcasting.

"Satellite and cable will make it unworkable if public broadcasting does go on in the same way. The best thing for the BBC to do is to stop trying to compete with the commercial boys and abandon the bid for high ratings.

"Should public money be spent compulsorily on *Blankety Blank* when the BBC is turning down *The Jewel in the Crown?* If the BBC goes on competing there will be further drops in standards", Mr Brinton said.

The committee's critics believe that stripping back the BBC's empire is unlikely to save the amount of money required to peg the licence fee at its present level.

BBC drops screening of violent sex film

By Our Arts Correspondent

The BBC unexpectedly decided yesterday not to screen a film with explicit scenes of sex and violence, but denied that it was connected with its request for an increase in the television licence fee to £65.

Looking for Mr Goodbar, which was due to go out tonight stars the American actress Diane Keaton, was given an X certificate on its cinema release. Mr Graeme McDonald, controller of BBC 2, viewed the film, with cuts, before it was inserted into the Christmas schedules.

Shortly before Christmas the BBC had second thoughts. Senior executives viewed the cut version again and decided to take it out. Newspapers were informed yesterday.

The film is to be replaced by a Walter Hill feature *The Driver*, at 10.35pm on BBC 2.

The BBC said that at the final assessment Mr McDonald decided that, even with cuts, it was inappropriate to be shown. "It was felt that parts of the film would be offensive to some viewers." *Looking For Mr Goodbar* is the graphic story of how a young woman teacher's casual sexual involvements after visits to New York bars leads to her death.

The corporation refused to say when the decision had been made, but insisted that it came before a protest from the National Viewers' and Listeners' Association about the content of a Dave Allen show on Boxing Day.

Catherine McTiernan, aged seven months, with her mother, Mrs Suzanne McTiernan.

Transplant baby 'comfortable'

Catherine McTiernan, aged seven months, who is Britain's youngest liver transplant patient, was yesterday "comfortable" in the intensive care unit at Addenbrooke's hospital, Cambridge.

Mr John Edwards, a spokesman for the hospital, said that the baby was "as well as can be expected in one so young who has just undergone major surgery".

The five-hour operation was performed on Thursday by Professor Roy Calne, Professor of Surgery at Cambridge and a pioneer in transplant surgery. The baby has remained unconscious since the operation.

"That is nothing to be worried or alarmed about," Mr Edwards said.

Catherine McTiernan is the thirty-seventh child to receive a liver transplant at Addenbrooke's this year.

Her parents, Mr Brendan McTiernan and his wife, Suzanne, of Norwich Road, Ipswich, had hoped to fly her to America in the new year for specialist treatment, and a £200,000 appeal was launched. But doctors said that she might not live long enough to make the journey.

The baby's rare liver condition was diagnosed when she was 10 weeks old. She underwent emergency surgery at King's College Hospital, London, and appeared to be making a good recovery until six weeks ago when she was rushed to hospital again.

Mr McTiernan said that money given to the appeal would go towards medical research to help other babies.

Advertising code for solicitors in Scotland

By Ronald Faux

Scottish solicitors have voted overwhelmingly in favour of a code of practice set out by the Law Society of Scotland to regulate advertising by the profession.

The results of a ballot announced yesterday showed that twice as many Law Society members disapprove of advertising than approved, but given the Government's intention to allow solicitor's advertising they voted by 3,381 to 555 to support the rules proposed by their council to regulate the practice.

The rules would not allow solicitors to use "loss leader" services to entice clients, touting for business, misleading or "knocking" advertising, or advertisements which brought the profession into disrepute.

The council would reserve the right to stop solicitors advertising immediately the rules were breached; they would be allowed to advertise in the Press, on radio and on television; and they could quote their fees for particular legal services.

The Law Society held the ballot because of the strength of feeling against individual advertising, and the belief that while the free market must be fair for commodities the principle did not apply to legal services, which could not be simply taken back to the shop.

Solicitors would not be obliged to advertise and the experience in England had been that after an initial flurry, the scale of advertising had settled down.

A Law Society spokesman said yesterday: "Advertising could be extremely valuable in pointing out people's rights and pointing them in the right direction to get proper legal advice. There may be people who do not realize they have a legal problem, who will also be helped".

Tour firms match holiday price cuts

By Derek Harris, Commercial Editor

More perks and price cuts emerged from retail travel agents yesterday as the package holidays industry hoped that the usual flood of January bookings would come along to mend their dented fortunes. Bookings for next summer's packages are still down by about a third.

Three more big travel agency chains yesterday competed to offer better deals to holidaymakers. This followed the announcement earlier this week by the Lunn Poly retail agency chain, part of the International Thomson Organization, that it would cut the price of holidays by up to £15 for anybody buying Lunn Poly's own insurance.

Thomas Cook, which claims to be the largest travel agency chain with 270 travel shops, said that it would match any final Lunn Poly price on strictly comparable holidays. Cook's are not tying this to an insurance arrangement.

Pickfords Travel, which, like Lunn Poly, has some 230 high street outlets, said that "on an informal basis at branch level" any final comparable prices would be matched. Hogg Robinson, which has 135 outlets, said that its branch managers were empowered to match comparable offers.

A new discount scheme tied to own insurance is to be announced by Pickfords this weekend. It will offer £10 discounts on holidays for two, linked to a chance to win £100.

Lunn Poly, Cook and Pickfords all offer money-back guarantees if a tour operator fails financially and endangers a holiday. Hogg Robinson has no formal scheme but says that in the past it has always made arrangements to ensure holidaymakers did not lose their break through operator failure.

All four offer various forms of credit. Lunn Poly guarantees the quality at 300 hotels, covering at least a fifth of the holiday market. Cook guarantees quality of resorts chosen for holidaymakers on the basis of their choice mix.

Warnings that operators may be forced to bring in surcharges on next summer's holidays later in the booking season, came from Mr Richard Gapper, managing director of Pickfords, and Mr John McEwan, Cook's retail director. Mr McEwan said: "With sterling slipping against the dollar, affecting aircraft fuel prices, and down a little against Mediterranean holiday currencies, it does seem almost inevitable there will be surcharges."

Both believe it makes important moves this week to bring in some limited no-surcharge guarantees, as the main booking season opens next week.

Blue Sky, the tour operator arm of British Caledonian, announced earlier this week a no-surcharge guarantee on holidays booked by the end of February. It followed similar guarantees for a limited period from Olympic Holidays and Flair.

Most other tour operators have more limited no-surcharge guarantees, mostly with a 10 per cent ceiling. There was no sign yesterday that any would move to improve the guarantees.

● A special news programme is being planned by Britannia Airlines to allow passengers on incoming flights to Britain to catch up with events.

Football game death charge

John Ellison, aged 21, a bricklayer, of Higher Croft Road, Lower Darwen, Blackburn, Lancashire, appeared before magistrates in Carlisle, Cumbria, yesterday charged with unlawful killing of a football supporter.

He is alleged to have killed Mr Peter Farish, aged 28, from Carlisle, who died in hospital on Thursday after being on a life support machine since an incident after Carlisle United's game with Blackburn on Sunday.

Crack found in oil rig support

A crack has been found in a horizontal brace 220 feet under water on a North Sea oil platform. It was discovered during maintenance on Occidental's Claymore platform 110 miles north-east of Aberdeen.

The company said there was no danger to the platform; repairs were expected to take four to six weeks. Drilling has been stopped as a precaution, but production is continuing at about 95,000 barrels a day.

Four teenagers on fire charge

Hertfordshire Police have charged four teenagers, one aged 14, two aged 18, and one aged 16, in connection with a £65,000 fire at Bancroft Dairies, Bancroft, Hitchin, earlier this month. They will appear at Hitchin Juvenile Court on January 1.

The fire destroyed seven milk floats, gutted sheds at the back of the site, and other property belonging to Wallace Brothers, the owners of the dairies.

Ethiopia wheat loaded free

Southampton dock employees and farmers yesterday completed the loading of 10,000 tons of wheat given by a Norwegian church foundation for famine relief in Ethiopia.

The loaders had worked over Christmas and gave their services free, saving labour charges of up to £25,000.

Conman Santa

Police in Luton, Bedfordshire, are hunting a Santa Claus conman who told householders he was collecting money for an old people's home, and was accompanied by a child holding a collecting box.

Actor verdict

A post mortem on the actor Ian Hendry, aged 53, who collapsed and died on Christmas Eve, disclosed that his death was due to natural causes. An inquest will not be held.

MP fears to accept Soviet invitation

By John Winder

Mr Stefan Terlezki, the British MP born in the Ukraine, is still wondering whether to accept an invitation from Mr Mikhail Gorbachov to revisit the Ukrainian home he has not seen for 42 years for fear that he might not be allowed to return to Britain.

Mr Terlezki, Conservative MP for Cardiff West, had two conversations with Mr Gorbachov during the Russian leader's recent visit to Britain, and was assured that as an MP he need have no concern that he would not be allowed to return to Britain.

But the MP told Mr Gorbachov that he was worried about the KGB and he said yesterday that he was in no doubt that, having escaped from Russian-occupied Austria at the end of the war and having been wounded in the process, he would not be allowed out of the USSR at the end of a visit but for the fact that he is a member of Parliament.

He is considering whether to ask a journalist or a fellow MP to go with him and his Welsh-born wife and family to visit his father and sister in their exile home in Siberia and to his own birthplace near the Carpathain mountains in the Ukraine. He believes that he would then have added assurance.

Mr Gorbachov twice during his visit to Britain asked Mr Terlezki to visit the USSR, to see his father and sister and to see his home once again.

When the MP said he was worried about the KGB, Mr Gorbachov told him: You have nothing to worry about. You are a member of Parliament now and we shall help you as much as we can.".

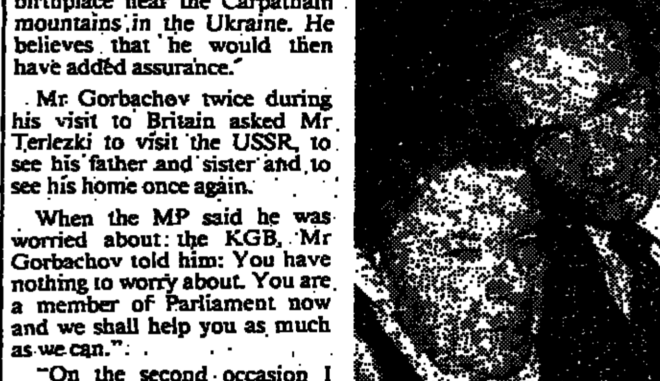
"On the second occasion I met him, Mr Gorbachov again said to me: "You must visit the beautiful Ukraine". I said that perhaps I would, but that I needed to be sure that I would get back."

Mr Terlezki said that the Russian leader had assured him that there would be no problem. He had been pleasant and honest in his invitation.

However, the MP believes that lower down the line there are officials who might take a different view.

He also foresees obstacles in the way of revisiting his native village in what was part of Poland before the war. He believes that SS20 missiles may be sited not far away and knows that some parts of the Ukraine are "no-go" areas. He put the point to Major-General Rogov, in charge of security during Mr Gobachov's visit, and he refused to confirm or deny it.

Mr Terlezki's father, who was exiled from the Ukraine to an area near Irkutsk in Siberia, visited his son on a 28-day visa from Russia earlier this year. He had been exiled after pleading, as a trade union leader, for better food and conditions for the people who worked with him.



Mr Stefan Terlezki (right) and his father, Oleska.

'Q' train that keeps vandals on the run

British Rail is making good use of an undercover service, a shabby-looking train that prowls around the Glasgow rail network hunting vandals on or beside the tracks. It is catching them at the rate of 300 a year.

The "Q" train, a Scottish response to a problem costing British Rail more than £5 million a year – £600,000 of it in Scotland – has proved so effective that a similar train has been put into service in the Edinburgh area.

The trains take their names from the wartime "Q" ships, seemingly innocent vessels that were packed with concealed weaponry to provide an unwelcome surprise for enemy raiders.

"The vandals of Glasgow are very surprised when we catch them in the act", Mr Archie Monhan, aged 59, says. He is a British Rail chief traction inspector, who has worked with the train since it started eight years ago.

"Once we caught some youngsters on the track for the second time. They told us the local vandals had put a contract out on the train to see who would be the first to derail it."

Outwardly no more than an elderly powered railway coach, the train patrols high-risk areas. Half a dozen plain-clothes British Transport police officers lurk inside, peering out of mesh-protected windows.

They stay in radio contact with colleagues in a transport police patrol car which follows the train by road.

When vandals are seen, the theory is that the train stops and the police jump out. In practice, however, the train sometimes carries on well past the vandals before stopping, to allow its passengers to creep back.

Trespassers and thieves provide much work for the "Q" train. One of Mr Monhan's memories is of a squad of workmen, complete with brilliant orange vests, working on the trackside as the train rolled past.

A radio check showed that no work was scheduled for that stretch and seven cable thieves were caught in the act.

Then there was the teenager who was getting in some practice on the track for a motor cycle trials event. "He was ahead of us, and we were clocking 50mph. But he had to stop at a level crossing."

There were also two Glasgow prostitutes seen entertaining a customer on a quiet stretch of track. "A lady constable got out and told him: 'Whatever those two are charging you, you can add the fine for trespass'."

Iranian boys can stay

The home office has announced that two Iranian brothers, Ali Zandi Ateshbar, aged seven and Kandiz Zandi Ateshbar, aged 13, may stay indefinitely with their British foster parents in Torquay, Devon.

Mr Walter Wyatt and his wife Megan, have looked after the boys for six years, and their case was taken up by Mr David Alton, Liberal MP for Liverpool, Mossley Hill.

Mrs Wyatt, aged 68, said: "If they had been deported to Iran the elder boy would very likely have had a gun put in his hand and sent to the front.

The family had suffered enough tradegy. Their father was killed mysteriously last summer and their mother hasn't got over the shock".

The boys' parents left them with the Wyatts and returned to Iran.

Problems arose when the younger boy reached school age. The Home Office insisted that he could stay only if he received private education. In spite of public donations the Wyatts found the financial strain of sending the brothers to private school too much. Now they have permission to send the boys to state schools.

Stonehenge prepares for battle

Plans are being prepared for the expected confrontation with thousands of rock fans after the National Trust ban on the free summer pop music festival at Stonehenge.

The two-month illegal festival can attract about 30,000 people, who camp around the ancient monument, but the trust says it seriously damages the site and presents an increasing annual bill to the taxpayer for repairing damage and policing.

The trust is holding talks with the commission to allow limited access to Stonehenge for the summer solstice on June 21. But to stop the pop festival, which lasts a month each side of the solstice, tons of fencing would be erected.

Mr Burr said that it cost more than £20,000 to repair damage caused by fans at the site. Ancient barrows were damaged by campers digging into them, riding motor cycles over them, and destroying the protective turf.

A publicity campaign was to be mounted to inform fans of the reasons for the ban on the event, which has been held every year since 1974. About 250 people were arrested, mainly for drug offences, during the festival this year.

The trust is holding talks with the Historic Buildings and Monuments Commission, and the police and local authorities on ways of preventing the festival.

"We are expecting confrontation and we are making plans to meet that", Mr Tom Burr, the trust's press spokesman, said. High Court action was being considered.

Talks were taking place with the commission to allow limited access to Stonehenge for the summer solstice on June 21.

Big police hunts to use national computer link

By Stewart Tendler, Crime Reporter

Large-scale police investigations such as those into the Yorkshire Ripper murders will in future be able to tap the storage resources of the Police National Computer if local computers are in danger of being overwhelmed with material.

Access to the storage facilities of the national computer, based at Hendon, north-west London, will become available early next year.

All forces are now linked to its collection of national indexes, which cover criminal records, car owners, fingerprints, stolen vehicles, missing and wanted people and disqualified drivers.

The new storage role will come into effect when forces using small computers for big investigations such as a murder, large robbery or a series of serious offences run out of capacity. It might also be used where an investigation stretches across several police force areas.

The use of the national computer, which has a capacity for one and a half million records, is part of an attempt by the Home Office and the police service to catch up as fast as possible with developments in computing.

The Yorkshire Ripper case showed the inadequacy of traditional police methods and the need to make use of computer facilities.

The Home Office has recommended forces to take up a system called Autoindex while specifications are drawn up for a system to cope with large inquiries. But Autoindex has drabacks, including limited storage and slow reactions.

It has been adopted by about 20 forces and the national computer function will increase its capacity from 10,000 records (equal to 30,000 records in a manual card index system) to up to 250,000 records. The national computer has enough capacity to handle up to six large investigations simultaneously.

When the national computer is called in Home Office staff will install terminals which allow users to examine its records and to store material.

The Autoindex system is a stopgap before the introduction later this year of the specialist system, Holmes (Home Office Large Major Enquiry System).

The Holmes package is expected to be taken up by the first of its users in the middle of next year, but even a specially developed system will not guarantee a capability for all large investigations.

The Home Office is already considering providing its own spare capacity for the Holmes system outside the national computer.

Officials believe that demand for the national computer and its successor is not going to be heavy. Research has shown that only 5 per cent of all large inquiries involve more than 10,000 records.

Computer systems dispense with the huge collections of index cards, the stock in trade of incident rooms. The Holmes system will allow extensive cross-reference of clues and facts.

Several forces have already bypassed the Autoindex system and moved to the larger Mica (Major Incident Computer Application), which has been developed commercially. It can also be connected to the national computer if necessary.

Terry Wogan bids a cheery farewell to Radio 2



By Patricia Clough

Many a tear dropped into kitchen sinks or on to steering wheels yesterday as a soft Irish brogue which for the past 12 years has cheerfully got people out of bed and off to work in the mornings bade farewell.

But inside the Broadcasting House studio the problem was keeping the champagne, rather than the usual coffee, out of the controls as Terry Wogan adlibbed for the last time through the two and a half hour, five-days-a-week disc-jockey programme that made him one of Britain's best-loved broadcasters.

There were the favourite jokes, including the one about the BBC virgins dancing on the roof. There were thanks for the "support and abuse" from listeners who had learned to write in with zany Woganesque comments – his army, he said, of unpaid scriptwriters.

There was a specially affectionate exchange of insults with Jimmy Young, his old sparring partner, in the quarter of an hour or so before Young took over the Radio 2 airwaves.

"Stop crying, if you start to cry I'll cry" Wogan said. There are kissing noises, "they think we do that for real", and later "I shall miss the old fool particularly".

Afterwards, a sign of the extent to which his jokes have become woven into a semi-myth around his person, he obliged photographers by pretending to be thrown out of Broadcasting House by security guards: He then posed disconsolately on a suitcase, a large unemployment card in his hand.

He is giving up his Radio 2 show, which started at 7.30 am, in spite of his pretence that he has been dismissed, to concentrate on hosting a thrice-weekly chat show on BBC 1 which begins in February.

He dulcet Irish tones will be replaced on Radio 2 by the Glaswegian accent of Ken Bruce, who Mr Wogan has dubbed Bruce Kent, a 33-year-old disc jockey from BBC Radio Scotland.

In a momentarily serious mood later he put his radio success down simply to "having recognized how people in the 1970s and 1980s want to be addressed on television and radio."

"The days of talking at people have gone. They want to see and hear you, warts and all, you have to be a human being and act as a human being. It is not enough to do requests, you have to establish a dialogue rather than a monologue."

The only thing you can not do, he said, is embarrass the audience, which is why he could not burst into tears on his last programme. "They would die of embarrassment, they would never listen to you again."

Any tears in his eyes yesterday morning, he insisted, were caused by alcohol.

His new chat show, like his radio programme, he said, would be live and unrehearsed. But would miss the element of fantasy possible on radio and listeners' letters. He did not know whether it was possible to do letters on a television show. It would need an autocue, which would destroy the spontaneity.

There were bound to be nights when the programme went badly, he reflected. "When it's three times a week something is going to be duff. You can't be a finely-polished work of art every time. It should have rough edges, it shouldn't be comfortable."

If things went wrong, he mused "I could invite them to join me in 'abide with me' or something like that".

Terry Wogan signing off after his final Radio 2 broadcast yesterday.

Colombia orders inquiry into cocaine discovery in Madrid diplomatic bag

From Geoffrey Matthews, Bogotá

The Government of President Belisario Betancur of Colombia yesterday initiated a high-level investigation after charges that cocaine has been smuggled into Spain in a diplomatic bag.

President Betancur pledged that the investigation would be pursued vigorously "to its ultimate consequences, no matter the heads that roll."

The Second Secretary at the Colombian Embassy in Madrid and a Spanish journalist were arrested on charges of cocaine smuggling.

Spanish authorities say cocaine was discovered in cans of television film sent in a diplomatic bag to the Madrid Embassy from the Press office of the Presidential Palace in Bogotá. Then a journalist, who visited Bogotá last month, told officials the film was for a documentary he was making for Spanish television.

The Colombian Foreign Minister Señor Augusto Ramirez Ocampo, yesterday insisted that there was no evidence that diplomatic bags had been used before for drug smuggling. He could not discount the possibility that the Madrid case was a plot by "Colombian connection" drug racketeers to discredit the Bogotá Government.

Colombia's explosive "drug war" led President Betancur to impose a state of siege eight months ago after the assassination of his Justice Minister, Señor Rodrigo Lara Bonilla, who had made a courageous personal campaign against the drug racket.

Señor Lara Bonilla's death, a contract killing ordered by leading drug *capos* also led the President to reverse his opposition to a US-Colombian extradition treaty, agreed by the previous Government, which he had said he would never enforce.

Today several detained *capos* face extradition and the "connection" has threatened to kill five Americans for every Colombian handed over to the US.

Its threats are never idle. On November 26 a car bomb exploded outside the US Embassy in Bogotá, killing a Colombian passer-by. In recent weeks the US State Department has withdrawn 10 diplomats and advised all remaining staff to confine themselves to the embassy and their well-guarded homes.

Although the United States remains the principal market for marijuana and cocaine from South America, Colombian racketeers have increasingly cultivated Western Europe over the last two years as an important secondary market for cocaine.

● MADRID: President Betancur yesterday appealed by telephone directly to the Spanish Prime Minister, Señor Felipe Gonzalez, to carry out a thorough and rigorous investigation according to reports *published in Madrid (Harry Debelius writes).*

Since the summary dismissal of the Colombian Second Secretary in Madrid, Señor Gustavo Jacome Lamus, and his arrest on Saturday, a Spaniard, Señor José Javier Bomez Ballesteros, has been arrested on suspicion of distributing the drug.

Two more suspected members of the international drug ring have been taken into custody in Madrid, unofficially identified as Señor Jorge Luis Ochoa and Señor Gilberto Rodriguez, both of whom are wanted for questioning by the US.

● WASHINGTON: The US Ambassador to Colombia, Mr Lewis Tambs, will soon return to Bogotá after a holiday despite death threats from drug traffickers, according to the State Department spokesman.

Cocaine dealers threatened the ambassador with death after Washington asked Bogotá to extradite some 70 Colombians suspected of drug running.



Muslim anger: Smoke hanging over one of the Beirut crossings blocked by relatives of kidnap victims yesterday.

Mother's suicide unleashes kidnap fury

From Robert Fisk, Beirut

Nayifa Najjar Hamade looks very pretty from her photograph, a rather chic, middle class lady of 37 who worked as a secretary in the offices of *As Safir*, one of Beirut's leading newspapers.

The pictures show her in a spotted scarf, her hair newly permed. Nayifa was the mother of a 13-year-old boy who was kidnapped nine months ago, and she never got over it.

This week she wrote a series of letters to her parents and friends, even to her son Ali, who disappeared not far from Aley back in March.

"What am I going to say to those people who want to wish me a happy new year in the next few days?" she asked in one of the handwritten messages. Then she took a bottle of insecticide and swallowed the contents.

Mrs Hamade had telephoned all the militias. She had travelled up to the presidential palace at Baabda in the hope that Mr Amin Gemayel could find her son.

Then she had simply given up hope. Her husband had died 13 years ago. Her friends could not help her.

So she was buried on Thursday in the Chahidain cemetery, a bleak graveyard near Chatila named after two boys killed by a shell during the 1975-76 civil war.

That might have been the last that was heard of her were it not for the families of an estimated 500 other Muslim kidnap victims who still feel very much like Mrs Hamade.

At least 50 of them, furious at Mrs Hamade's death, turned up at three of the four crossing points between East and West Beirut yesterday and blocked the roads with burning tyres and hijacked city buses. They carried photographs of Mrs Hamade and threatened, in no uncertain terms, to start kidnapping Christians in West Beirut if the Government did not find their abducted relatives.

All day yesterday motorists trying to cross their capital city queued at military checkpoints in the port while smoke drifted up from the makeshift barricades beside the museum and two other ruined highways that connect Christian and Muslim Beirut. The Christian relatives of kidnap victims have already demonstrated many times.

In all, around 2,500 abducted civilians of both religions are still officially being sought in Lebanon, although the Government holds little hope for all but 100 of them.

The Red Cross have only seen about 120 of them – men, women and children – while Mr Walid Jumblatt, the Druze militia leader and himself a Government minister, has stated with chilling finality that his men hold no living prisoners.

The fact that the authorities can still offer no hope of finding the missing civilians – indeed, the fact that their relatives can virtually cut Beirut in half at their choosing – says a lot about the Government plan which was supposed to bring security to a united capital of Lebanon.

Minister quits after Bhopal disaster

Bhopal (Reuter, AFP) – The Labour Minister in Madhya Pradesh resigned yesterday after accepting moral responsibility for the disaster which killed 2,500 people here earlier this month.

Union Carbide has applied for a licence to set up a chemical plant in rural Maharashtra, on the west coast, the *Times of India* reported. The company said the products were safe and in no way related to the lethal methyl isocyanate.

Shcharansky in hospital

Jerusalem (Reuter) – Soviet officials informed the family of the jailed Jewish dissident, Dr Anatoly Shcharansky, that he is in hospital but declined to give details, his wife said here.

He is serving a 13-year sentence after being convicted in 1978 of spying for the US. His family has not received a letter from him since September. His mother was told last month that he had been transferred from a prison near Moscow to a Urals labour camp.

Radio man shot

Manila – Two men shot dead an outspoken radio commentator in the central Philippines city of Cebu after his early-morning programme. Vicente Villordon was the seventh journalist to be murdered this year.

Sent into exile

Jerusalem (Reuter) – A United States citizen and member of the ultra-nationalist Kach party, convicted of shooting at an Arab vehicle, was expelled from Israel after serving half of his three-year sentence.

Envoy recalled

Seoul (Reuter) – South Korea recalled its ambassador to Paris after France upgraded North Korea's representation and postponed indefinitely next month's visit here by the French Foreign Trade Minister, Mme Edith Cresson.

Caputo hits back at 'arrogant' Thatcher

From Douglas Tweedale, Buenos Aires

Argentina's Foreign Minister Señor Dante Caputo, has reacted sharply to Mrs Thatcher's Christmas speech to the Falkland Islands, describing it as "an act of arrogance almost typical in a small empire which is decaying".

Asked about her assertion that the wishes of the islanders will always come first, he told a local news agency that "no leader should say such things".

"Mrs Thatcher can speak about what she will do during her government, but to pretend to fix the course of history is a bit excessive", Señor Caputo said.

"Mrs Thatcher will probably try to carry out her objective for as long as she lasts in government, though it is not clear that she will achieve this", he said.

Such statements, Señor Caputo said, were almost typical of a small empire which continues to decay.

"Argentina has a just title (to the islands), it has a legitimate government pressing for its rights, and it has history on its side", he said, adding that few countries in the world still *maintained colonies.*

Diplomatic sources said the acrimonious exchange would not help in efforts to normalize relations between Britain and Argentina and to start negotiations on the islands' future.

According to local sources, the Foreign Ministry was surprised at the aggressive tone of Mrs Thatcher's speech.

Argentine and British diplomats have developed personal channels of communication to discuss the Falklands, but the positions of their governments "have left them with little to talk about", the sources said.

Hackers are defeated by bank files

Hamburg (AP) – Hackers attending a West German computer pirates' convention ended their high-tech jamboree yesterday with a thwarted attempt to tap into an international bank's computer.

The computer caper capped two days of hacking, information exchange and examination of the latest equipment in Hamburg by some 300 enthusiasts.

Citibank's West German subsidiary said in a statement from its Frankfurt headquarters that hackers from the Chaos Communication Congress had made initial contact with the bank's computer network but failed to gain access to any files.

An Associated Press reporter saw two hackers use a secret codeword to call up the bank's computer. "Welcome to Citibank" flashed across their terminal screen. But the hackers failed to penetrate deeper into the bank's system.

Citybank said the hackers were shut out of its system when they failed to punch in the correct combination of codes and names to gain further access. "Access to the main system is safeguarded in a way that makes unauthorized admittance impossible," it said.

There were no reports of similar attempts succeeding during the congress.

The congress included seminars on "Laws for hackers" and "Psychic disturbances through computer misuse". The centre of activity was the Hacker Centre where about 30 computer terminals were available for use.

One 15-year-old was busy hatching a plot that would let him use the telephone number of neighbours to make long-distant calls. Two delegates from New York showed the Germans for the first time how to tap into a US computer network.

Singapore explains why it intends to leave Unesco

From Stephen Taylor, Singapore

Singapore officially confirmed yesterday that it intends to withdraw from the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (Unesco) in a year's time, while attempting to dissociate itself from criticism of the organization.

A spokesman for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs said that notice of intention to leave the controversial organization had been given on Thursday because of the "unfair" contribution levied from Singapore for the budget of the United Nations and its agencies.

The notice is due to take effect on December 31, 1985 and if it does Singapore will be the first developing nation to withdraw from Unesco.

"We are a small country with limited resources which we need to allocate with care, bearing in mind the interests of our people," the spokesman said. But, he added, that should not be interpreted as criticism of Unesco, its programmes or Mr Amadou Mahtar M'Bow, its Secretary-general.

The official position here is that the UN system for assessing budget contributions, which is largely dependent on per capita income of a member country, penalizes countries like Singapore with a high growth rate.

Singapore's budget contribution had increased 100 per cent between 1965 and 1975 and a further 400 per cent since then, while the levies on some industrialized and eastern bloc nations had remained stagnant.

Sentence of death for land sales

Amman (Reuter) – The Jordanian Cabinet approved death sentences yesterday on 15 people convicted of selling their property on the Israeli-occupied West Bank to Israelis.

The official Jordanian news agency, Petra, reported that the 15 had been sentenced in absentia by a special court.

Jordanian law forbids the sale of property in the occupied territories to the Israeli "enemies", considering it high treason.

● JERUSALEM: Palestinian sources in East Jerusalem say about 100 Palestinians from the occupied West Bank have been sentenced to death in absentia by Jordanian military courts for selling land to Israelis (Christopher Walker writes). None of the sentences has been carried out.

Mayor condemns brawl by Bethlehem monks

From Christopher Walker, Jerusalem

Mr Elias Freij, the Christian Arab Mayor of Bethlehem, yesterday strongly condemned the violence between Greek Orthodox and Armenian clergy which broke out this week during the traditional post-Christmas cleaning ceremonies in the Church of the Nativity.

"I call upon the religious authorities to respect the sanctity of the building and to find some way of sorting out their differences before next Christmas," he said. "This thuggery should never have been allowed."

At the height of the fighting inside the church on Thursday, about 50 monks wielding broomsticks and chairs fought each other in continuation of a long-running dispute over their rights to different parts of the building, which stands on the spot where tradition has it that Jesus was born.

Police at the church were unable to keep order and Israeli riot police had to be summoned. During the melee, one Greek Orthodox clergyman was injured.

"The ordinary people of Bethlehem were disgusted at what took place in what they consider the most sacred church in the world," Mr Freij said. "It appears that a bunch of the most narrow-minded of the monks were deliberately sent with the aim of causing trouble."

Independent observers who *saw the brawl said that many of* the tough-looking Greek Orthodox monks arrived equipped with broomsticks, apparently looking for trouble.

● EXECUTED: Robert Lee Willie, aged 26, who went to the electric chair in Angola, Louisiana, yesterday for the rape, torture and murder of a teenage girl in 1980. The chair had been wired up by his father, John Willie, when he was an inmate in the same jail in 1982.

Priest expelled

Santiago (Reuter) – Chile has expelled an American Roman Catholic priest, Father Dennis O'Mara, handing out Christmas cards with an anti-torture message after Mass last Sunday.

Bombing trial

Jakarta – Six people including a former Indonesian minister, will be tried soon on charges connected with the bomb blasts which killed two and injured 16 here in October.

Missing pilots

Canberra (Reuter) – Fears are growing over the fate of two Australian pilots who disappeared about two weeks ago in the Middle East on a private flight from Britain to Australia.

Rogue herd

Dhaka – Six people have been killed and many others injured by a herd of about 20 wild elephants in south-east Bangladesh in the past three months.

More defectors

Amsterdam – A further 228 Polish passengers on two cruise ships defected this Christmas during stopovers at the West German port of Travemünde and Amsterdam.

Hong Kong ties

Taipei (Reuter) – Taiwan's Economic Planning and Development Council proposed continuing air and shipping links with Hong Kong after it is returned to China.

Cold kills 180

Delhi (AP) – A cold spell in northern India has claimed about 180 lives in 10 days, with at least 140 people dying in Bihar as temperatures dipped.

Death denied

Hanoi (AFP) – A Cambodian official here denied reports that the Prime Minister, Mr Cahn Si, had died in Moscow.

Missile deal

Tokyo (Reuter) – Japan is to introduce US-designed surface-to-air Patriot missiles to bolster its defences.

Belated budget

Lisbon (Reuter) – Portugal approved a 1985 budget Bill more than two months after the official deadline.

Pigging it

Peking (Reuter) – Chinese doctors are studying the case of a 10-year-old peasant girl who prefers to live, eat and sleep with pigs, the *Canton Evening News* reported. The girl shared the pigs' swill, was suckled by sows and slept in their sty at nights.

Russia cannot beat Afghans, US says

From Mohsin Ali Washington

The Reagan Administration is convinced that Moscow will continue to pay a high price until an Afghanistan settlement is negotiated providing for the withdrawal of Soviet forces and self-determination for the Afghan people.

Mr Michael Armacost, the State Department Under-Secretary for Political Affairs, said in a television interview here that he believed "time is not necessarily on the Soviet side."

In the absence of a political settlement, Moscow faced a "prolonged, protracted, savage, brutal, inconclusive and ultimately unsuccessful effort to consolidate control."

President Reagan marked the fifth anniversary of the Soviet invasion by condemning the occupation.

He reiterated his call for the withdrawal of the 115,000 Soviet troops and said a way to end the tragedy had been advanced repeatedly by the United Nations: withdrawal of Soviet forces, restoration of Afghanistan's independence and non-aligned status, self-determination for the Afghan people, and the return of more than three million refugees to their homes.

State Department officials estimate that there have been about 25,000 Soviet casualties during the five-year occupation. Of this total they claim that between 8,000 and 9,000 Soviet soldiers have been *killed.*

They also claim that more than 600 Soviet and Afghan Government aircraft have been lost since December 1979, and that Moscow has increased its manpower there by about 10,000 troops over the past year.

Mr Robert Peck, Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for South Asia, told reporters last week that the Afghan resistance had demonstrated a staying power and an ability to fight the Russians "to a kind of uneasy stalemate".

"We see no alternative but negotiations", he said. "It is our hope that ultimately the Soviets will be persuaded that this is a losing game and that they will choose to move towards a negotiated solution."

Labour's 16 majority in Australia

From Tony Duboudin Melbourne

Labour will have a 16-seat majority in the Australian House of Representatives.

Counting of votes cast in the December 1 election for the Lower House is complete.

The Senate ballots are still being counted, and the final result may not be known for 10 to 14 days.

National standings: Labour 82 seats, Liberal 45, National Party 21.

At dissolution, Labour held 75 seats in the House, the Liberals 33 and the National Party 17. Redistribution has increased seats in the Lower House from 125 in the last Parliament to 148, with increased seats everywhere except in Tasmania, the Northern Territory and the Australian Capital Territory.

STATE OF THE PARTIES LOWER HOUSE

	New totals	At dissolution
New South Wales		
Lab	29	24
Lib	12	11
Nat	10	8
Victoria		
Lab	26	23
Lib	11	7
Nat	2	3
South Australia		
Lab	8	7
Lib	5	4
Western Australia		
Lab	9	8
Lib	4	3
Queensland		
Lab	8	10
Lib	7	3
Nat	9	6
Tasmania		
Lib	5	5 (Lib)
Northern Territory		
Lab	1	1 (Lab)
Australian Capital Territory		
Lab	2	1 (Lib)

Junta officers must face civilian court

From Our Correspondent Buenos Aires

Argentina's Supreme Court has cleared the way for the trial *in a civilian court of nine* members of the former military junta on charges of violating human rights.

In a landmark decision, the court ruled that a civilian court of appeal had not violated the Constitution last October when it took over a court-martial of the officers from the military Supreme Council because of delays.

The court rejected a motion by the defendants objecting to a civilian trial. The officers include General Jorge Videla, the former President, General Roberto Viola and General Leopoldo Galtieri.

President Alfonsín ordered the court-martial on charges of mass kidnapping, torture and secret murder shortly after he took office in December 1983.

Holiday salute: President Reagan and his wife Nancy leaving Washington to spend a new year break in California.

Chess strain and tedium

Moscow (Reuter) – The World Chess championship went into its 36th game yesterday, with both contenders showing the strain and the public showing little interest as Moscow got ready for its new year holiday.

The Hall of Columns was less than half full as the challenger, Garry Kasparov, launched into a Queen's Gambit Declined.

After 3½ months of struggle, he appeared rumpled. The champion, Anatoly Karpov, who leads 5-1 and needs only one more win, also seemed tired.

Kasparov, playing white, chose an old-fashioned variation that both men have used in earlier games. After nine moves and half an hour's play, the position was identical to the 34th game, drawn in 20 moves.

Hungary ready to round up social parasites

Budapest (AFP) - Hungary has announced a new law to take effect from January 1 under which layabouts, drunkards, prostitutes, compulsive gamblers and other "parasites" will be rounded up.

Officials estimate that at least 20,000 Hungarians fall into these categories of "undesirable elements". They face one to three years' compulsory labour at "re-education centres".

The legislation is inspired by sharply-increased absenteeism from work, often by people doing illicit private jobs. Every employee has his place of work and occupation marked on his identity card, and police can demand proof of regular employment. This kind of check has been rarely carried out.

At the re-education centres, the "parasites" will be on probation.

Discipline will be less strict than in prisons, and some inmates will be allowed out for brief periods.

Ontario Tories favour leader in Reagan image

From John Best Ottawa

The Ontario Progress Conservative Party, one of the Western world's most enduringly successful political machines, is getting ready to choose a new leader.

The man chosen at the leadership convention in Toronto on January 26 will automatically become Premier of Canada's wealthiest and most populous province, succeeding *Mr William Davis, who is* retiring after 14 years in the job.

Four men are running for the leadership. The favourite is Mr Frank Miller, Minister of Industry in the Davis Cabinet, a friendly, relaxed politician who is considered the most right-wing of the candidates. He has described himself as "a Canadianized version of Ronald Reagan."

However, ideology has so far counted for little in the campaign, which has been going on since Mr Davis announced his retirement in early October.

Rightwing in the Ontario context, where the Tories first won power in 1943, means just a little bit right of centre, and comparisons with Reaganite conservatism are somewhat fanciful.

A glance at the list of issues that have been discussed in the leadership campaign tells the difference. They include rent controls – none of the candidates would abolish them – and reducing social programmes to balance the province's budget, which none would do, either.

On the question of selling off the Ontario government's controversial $650 million (£382 million) share in an oil company, one candidate is against it and three, including Mr Miller, have been non-committal.

The chief task facing any candidate is to convince Tory power brokers that he would be able to perpetuate the image of quiet, stalwart competence that has kept the party in power for 41 years.

The power brokers include not only party strategists but a whole network of wealthy industrialists, land developers, corporate lawyers and financiers who inhabit the glass towers overlooking Toronto's Bay Street financial district.

The other candidates apart from Mr Miller are Mr Dennis Timbrell, the Minister of Agriculture, Mr Larry Grossman, the provincial Treasurer, and the Attorney-General, Mr Roy McMurtry.

Bonnici keeps Mintoff's Cabinet intact

Valletta (AP) – Dr Carmelo Mifsud Bonnici, the new Prime Minister of Malta, has retained the Cabinet of Mr Dom Mintoff, who stepped down last Saturday.

Dr Bonnici is keeping the education portfolio. The other 11 Cabinet ministers were sworn in on Christmas Eve.

"We have no doubt that Mintoff thought long-term when planning the change of leadership", the pro-Government daily *L'Orizzont* said.

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Chinese and Russians break more ice with three new pacts

Peking (Reuter) – China and the Soviet Union yesterday set the seal on improving trade ties by signing three agreements on economic, technical and scientific cooperation.

The accords were signed by Mr Ivan Arkhipov, the Soviet First Deputy Premier and the highest-ranking Kremlin leader to visit Peking in 15 years, at the end of a nine-day visit here which helped to thaw the frosty relations between the two

The former allies who became ideological foes in the 1960s had already agreed at the start of Mr Arkhipov's visit to sign a 1986-90 trade pact next year. The official New China news agency said the two sides agreed to establish a joint commission to oversee their developing economic, trade, scientific and technological relations.

They also signed accords on technical cooperation, principally Russian help in upgrading Chinese factories, and general scientific and technological cooperation. Mr Yao Yilin, Vice-Premier, signed for the Chinese side.

Mr Arkhipov is due to leave for Moscow today after a tour which took him to showpieces of China's economic reforms in the south of the country.

Mr Arkhipov showed a keen interest in the reforms, despite Soviet press criticism of the changes, which Moscow believes could undermine communism.

Both sides have a big practical interest in developing economic contacts. The Soviet Union needs food for Siberia, while China wants Soviet technical help in upgrading factories built by Russian experts during the years of friendship in the 1950s.

The two countries have agreed to increase trade in 1985 to £1.2bn from £0.9bn this year. But the Soviet Union remains far behind the United States, Western Europe and Japan in trade with the lucrative Chinese market.

It was not clear whether Mr Arkhipov raised Moscow's political differences with Chinese leaders, although his talks included a meeting with Mr Zhao Ziyang, the Prime Minister.

The Kremlin has been worried by China's growing military contacts with Washington, underlined by a planned visit to Peking next month by General John Vessey, head of the US Joint Chiefs of Staff.

Mr Deng Xiaopping, the Chinese leader, has said fundamental political differences with Moscow remain. The New China news agency said yesterday China had beefed up its military defences along its long and remote north-western border with the Soviet Union, improving roads and telephone links to border sentry posts.

Top Peking ideologist puts Marx in context

(Reuter) – China, worried by recent Western suggestions that it is dumping Marxism, put forward one of its leading ideologists yesterday to set the record straight.

Karl Marx's basic principles still underpinned Chinese theory but failed to provide practical answers to some major economic problems, Mr Yu Guangyuan told foreign journalists.

Chinese thinkers and policymakers, armed with Marx's system of thought, had now created the solutions, Mr Yu, a senior member of many Communist Party and academic bodies, said. Some of his theories were "far from enough in the issue of socialist [economic] construction."

Marx was a great revolutionary but was much weaker when it came to advice on how to rebuild a socialist economy.

It was impossible to find in his works a clear idea on practical planning, which was crucial to the smooth development of the Chinese economy. "The theory of planning had been something left for us to invent and create," Yu said.

The controversy erupted earlier this month when a front-page report in the *People's Daily* said classical Marxist ideas could not solve China's present problems.

The paper printed a correction next day, emphasizing that the sentence should have read that Marx's theories could not solve "all" China's problems.

But it was too late to stop Western press speculation, fuelled by the strong tendency in China today to apply practical rather than ideological solutions to economic problems.

Mr Yu, drawing on Hungary's theoretical justification of its sweeping economic experiments, made a distinction between the underlying system of a socialist country and the mechanisms used to fulfil its aims. All socialist countries had the same system but applied different mechanisms at different times, he said. "If we separate these two terms, it will solve many of our problems in ideoligical fields as well as in the field of policy-making."





Helping hands: A guerrilla wounded in fighting at Nong Samet being carried to safety by Thai soldiers.

First Times 'prisoner' dies in India

Delhi – Ashoka Mehta, who was *The Times* very first "prisoner of conscience" died on December 10 in India where he had long been a leader of the Socialist movement (Michael Hamlyn writes). He had also been a minister under Mrs Indira Gandhi's early Prime Ministership.

Mr Mehta was born on October 24, 1911, and interupted his early education to join the freedom movement. He was jailed by the British and stayed in prison for three years. After independence he was prominent in the Socialist movement but joined Mrs Gandhi after representing India at the United Nations.

As minister he was in charge of planning from 1966 to 1968. In 1973 he became president of the Congress (O) opposing Mrs Gandhi and was jailed by her during the emergency.

Vietnamese close in for kill at last border base

From Neil Kelly, Bangkok

Vietnamese forces continuing their offensive against Cambodian guerrillas near the Thai border have gained a foothold at Ampil, the last base of the Khmer People's National Liberation Front still intact.

Several hundred Vietnamese soldiers in armoured vehicles have occupied positions on the edge of the lake which supplies water to Ampil less than two miles away, according to a guerrilla officer.

The Vietnamese, who have knocked out six other bases in the past six weeks, are shelling Ampil with 130mm guns from positions nine miles away.

More than 5,000 Front guerrillas are in position to resist the attack, although it is acknowledged that they are heavily outgunned. Ampil's 23,000 civilians are sheltering along an anti-tank ditch just inside Thailand.

General Dien Del, Ampil's guerrilla commander, said he expected the battle would be "cruel and bloody". He added: "Whatever happens, our guerrilla forces will remain in existence."

He said Vietnam wanted to wipe out the Front to weaken world support for Cambodian resistance groups. The West regards the anti-communist Front, led by Mr Son Sann, a respected former prime minister, as the most worthy of the resistance groups and most outside aid is directed towards it.

Its greatest supporters, the South-East Asian governments, fear that if the Front were eliminated, the West would soon stop helping and recognizing Cambodian's anti-Vietnamese resistance.

● NONG SAMET: Front guerrillas yesterday recaptured most of their Nong Samet camp, along the border from Ampil, after four days of fierce fighting, a Thai Army commander said (Reuter reports).

Major-General Salya Sripen said the guerrillas had to fight for every scrap of land but now controlled three-quarters of the sprawling camp. Vietnamese troops atacked it on Christmas Day and captured most of it.

About 3,000 guerillas launched a series of coordinated counter-attacks early yesterday, he said.

International relief oficials estimated that 40 Cambodians were killed and 70 wounded. A guerrillas spokesman in Bangkok said 23 Vietnamese were killed.

Nephew of Sikh leader on incitement charge

From Michael Hamlyn, Delhi

Mr Jasbir Singh, a nephew of the dead extremist Sikh leader Sant Jarnail Singh Bhindranwale, has been charged with inciting disaffection against the Indian Government among Sikh pilgrims in Pakistan last month. He is also charged with sedition and with promoting enmity between religious groups.

Mr Singh, aged 22 has ended a round-the-world odyssey with arrest in India after Britain refused him political asylum. The Press Trust of India says he is in prison in Rajasthan, where several people are being questioned in connection with Mrs Indira Gandhi's assassination. United News of India say he is in neighbouring Madhya Pradesh.

His arrest, in an aircraft flown to the Philippines specifically to pick him up, has allegedly led a number of leaders of the Khalistan movement, which advocates a separate Sikh state, to go underground in Britain.

● MANILA: a Filipino immigration official told a judge yesterday that security men had detained Mr Singh and quietly shipped him to India at the request of the Indian embassy (AP reports).

Mr Felix Rodriguez was testifying at the hearing of a petition seeking Mr Singh's release filed by his Filipino lawyer, Mr Antonio Coronel, before he knew of Mr Singh's return to India.

British assault on Kilimanjaro – by bicycle

Nairobi - Two cousins from Cumbria are attempting the first bicycle ascent of 19,340ft Kilimanjaro, Africa's highest mountain (Charles Harrison writes).

Dick and Nick Crane, aged 31 and 30, left their hotel near the peak in northern Tanzania on Thursday, hoping to reach the summit by New Year's Day on low-geared bicycles designed for rough terrain.

A group of African porters is helping to carry food and spare parts. They expect to ride most of the route, but will be forced to carry their bicycles in some sections - such as the soft snow below the summit.

Money raised from sponsors of the trip, which is supported by *The Sunday Times*, will go towards a water supply scheme in northern Kenya.





Botha to free Colonel Hoare

Colonel Michael "Mad Mike" Hoare, aged 65 (above), the soldier of fortune who led a group of South African mercenaries in an attempt to stage a coup in the Seychelles in 1981, is to be released from prison in South Africa under an amnesty acconced by President Botha, Ray Kennedy writes.

Hoare who was born in Ireland, was sentenced to an effective 10 years' imprisonment in July 1982 for air piracy. He and his group hijacked an Air India Boeing in the Seychelles to escape back to South Africa after the coup attempt failed.

A prisons department spokesman said in Pretoria that Hoare was one of 85 prisoners over the age of 65 due for release. Mrs Phyllis Hoare said she expected her husband to be freed late next month or in February.

Under the terms of the amnesty, granted as a gesture of "Christmas goodwill", first offenders who qualify for pardon will have to serve a quarter of their sentences.

Faction fights

Cape Town (Reuter) – Two Africans were killed and 17 wounded in faction fighting at Crossroads squatter camp near here, police said.

Japan puts off dumping of nuclear waste

From David Watts Tokyo

Japan has shelved a plan to dump nuclear waste in the South Pacific until it gets approval from countries in the region.

Mr Yasuhiro Nakasone, the Prime Minister, has had second thoughts about the proposal to dump 50,000 drums of low-level radioactive waste after months of opposition from the South Pacific islands and New Zealand. The waste would have cast a shadow over his visit to Fiji, Papua-New Guinea, Australia and New Zealand next month, in which nuclear issues are going to feature strongly.

However, government sources indicate that Mr Nakasone has not given up the idea of dumping waste in the Pacific, and he will seek approval from regional governments during his visit.

The drums were originally to have been sunk at a specific point 560 miles south-east of Tokyo Bay.

Pretoria denies Machel claim on rebel arms

From Ray Kennedy, Johannesburg

South Africa is urgently studying the text of a speech by President Samora Machel of Mozambique, in which he accused it of continuing to "sustain, develop, equip, infiltrate and supply" the Renamo rebels.

The rebels claim they are operating within two and a half miles of the capital, Maputo, and have blocked road and rail links to the city.

Mr Machel's categoric charges are seen as the most serious challenge so far to Pretoria's bona fides since the signing of the Nkomati accord nine months ago.

Mr R. F. ("Pik") Botha, the South African Foreign Minister, told a press conference that South Africa has scrupulously complied with both the spirit and the letter of the accord but said he will not respond to the Mozambique leader's accusations until he has studied the full text of his speech.

He said there would be further discussions soon "to see what extent we can be of assistance to each other to bring about the cessation of hostilities in Mozambique."

In the past three months Mr Botha has travelled to Israel, West Germany and undisclosed East African countries on missions believed to have been concerned directly with efforts to stop the supply of equipment to Renamo.

In Maputo, the Government-owned newspaper *Noticias* claimed that local journalists were told by a South African National Party MP, that supporters of Dr Andries Treurnicht's ultra-right Conservative Party have been responsible for breaches of the accord.

It has long been suspected in Maputo that elements within the South African Defence Force which support the Conservative Party have been clandestinely aiding Renamo. A Conservative Party spokesman said the party viewed the newspaper's claims in a very serious light.

THE ARTS

Three of a strange kind: The Paris Opéra Ballet's GRCOP dancers in Michael Clark's *Le French Revolting*

Paris puzzles, then applauds

Michael Clark
Pompidou Centre

The 1984-85 season shows every sign of being not so much make-or-break year as breakthrough year for Michael Clark. The success of his own dance company, launched at Riverside in August, was only the first step. He has already followed it with his first creation for Paris: another is due there in the spring and one meanwhile for the Scottish Ballet. Not bad for a 22-year-old dancer who made his first choreography only two years earlier.

His next piece in Paris is expected to feature the three most redoubtable male stars of the Ballet de l'Opéra: Patrick Dupond, Jean Guizerix and Charles Jude, with Nureyev replacing Jude at some performances. For the work just given in the Grande Salle of the Pompidou Centre, he had to make do more modestly with the 12 dancers of the Opéra's experimental dance group, called GRCOP (short for Groupe de Recherche Chorégraphique de l'Opéra de Paris).

Clark calls the new work *Le French Revolting* and has put in some not too serious references to the French Revolution. Most of the characters are either *sans culottes* in Y-fronts and stockings with garters, worn by men and women alike, or *sans têtes* thanks to costumes incorporating false heads and the activities of a gentleman wielding a large axe. The rest are apparently so poor that they have to share one jacket between two, dancing some back to back, others like a three-legged race team.

The French audience seemed not entirely sure what to make of this typical Clark irreverence, but the humour soon began to get through, helped by occasional brief snatches of spoken text that bore no very obvious relationship to the action. The music is by the Fall, a group whose songs Clark has used before: four characteristically raucous and forceful numbers from their album *The Wonderful and Frightening World of the Fall*.

I think Clark needs to find a designer who can put over his witty and uninhibited ideas more stylishly than Leigh Bowery does. Even the dresses that revealed a good idea, such as tiny black undies worn under short pink negligées to suggest (I assume) both ballet skirts and British ideas of French naughtiness, were sloppy in detail.

By now, however, there is no doubt about Clark's ability to make his dancers move in a fast, inventive free adaptation of ballet technique into a personal style. The GRCOP team looked much better dancers in this work than anything else on the programme.

There were three other creations and, the night I went, they added Merce Cunningham's *Inlets II*, an adaptation made for them by the choreographer of a work his own company has shown in London. They perform its partly aleatory combinations of 64 set movements with a solemn air that misses the fun and excitement the work can potentially provide.

All the same, that was more rewarding than the contributions of three French choreographers. Regine Chopinot put a few amusing steps into *Les Rats* but they lost their sharpness by having the cast wear floppy rubber bath-house slippers, and if there was a shape to the work it did not become apparent.

Jean-Christophe Paré made a solo for himself, *La Couleur du Secret*, in which the violet and the yellow of his costume were supposed to represent an inward struggle. So much I gather from the programme note, but it was all too muted and painfully sensitive to convey its delicate allusions. Paré moves beautifully, although too repetitiously, and without quite enough strength to justify his claims to represent a Spectre de la Rose who has already jumped through the window. Sylvio Gualda's on-stage playing of Elliott Carter's Four pieces for timpani was impressive although not very obviously relevant.

Jacques Garnier, the group's director, describes his duet *A Coeur ouvert* as a kind of X-ray of a pas de deux. Presumably that is why the two guest stars, Ghislaine Thesmar and Michaël Denard, wore respectively a tutu and a tunic in transparent grey. With grey streaks in their hair, too, they performed an elaborate rigmarole with quotations from various famous duets (*Giselle* was the most direct and obvious one) hammed up to the Andante from Schubert's Trio in E major.

At one point a shower of artificial flowers descended upon them, and towards the end he slapped her face, which caused her to pretend to tear his ear off, leaving them both covered in stage blood. All very significant, no doubt, but the hoped-for revelation of the secret relationship between a couple accustomed to dancing together did not materialize.

The theory behind the GRCOP is that it constitutes a group of dancers, drawn from one of the world's best classical ballet companies, who have chosen to devote themselves to contemporary dance. In practice, their self-imposed exile seems to have blunted the edge of their ballet style without providing them with much choreography good enough to acquire outstanding contemporary skills.

An outsider cannot help wondering why the group's standards should fall below those of the Paris Opéra Ballet's other activities. The answer lies only partly in a problem other countries have too, that there is no lack of would-be choreographers but a shortage of real talent. The other problem of the GRCOP is that it is trying to do three different things at once, not altogether compatible and all capable of being done more appropriately in other ways: by workshop evenings to find and sift new creators; by a small-scale programme of classical ballets to tour those places that want but cannot afford the full company; and by the main company itself for presenting the work of invited outside choreographers.

When the repertory at the Opéra and Opéra-Comique under Nureyev's direction includes work by Armitage, Childs, Cunningham, Taylor and Van Dantzig, a separate group to undertake just part of this activity seems an expensive and unrewarding luxury. Only Clark's contribution made their latest programme worthwhile – and who would not rather see what he is going to make of the all-star trio next spring?

John Percival

Television

Venice has Vidal in two minds

The second part of **Vidal In Venice** (Channel 4) revealed the American novelist in almost as patrician and mannered a mood as the city itself, although he is not yet himself surrounded by tourists: "Venice was once a world capital", he explained as the crowds scattered in one direction or another; "now it is a sort of Disneyland." It represents a sad decline, for there was a time when only those in search of inspiration arrived here. Wagner, Browning, James, Byron – all of them came, but few of them stayed for very long; perhaps this "repository of consolations", as James called it, was barer than any of them imagined.

Vidal has come, too, but really only to lament, since this documentary was as much a disquisition on the nature of time as it was a meditation on decay. He described the carnival in order to note that the word itself means "farewell to flesh", and he displayed the palaces along the Grand Canal only to suggest that they are now "all exterior". One of them was once even "the property of the manager of The Who" – the last word pronounced with a certain asperity.

And yet Vidal has no particularly higher view of the past than he has of the present, and even the great history of Venice did not escape his sardonic attention. But at the same time he understands the mystery of that past: it is this tension, between his sense of grandeur and his awareness of folly, between sentimental fascination and fastidious disgust, that animates his perceptions and renders some of them memorable. This was altogether a more substantial and interesting "travel documentary" than usual, even if it left one with the desire never to visit that drowning world again.

Peter Ackroyd

Radio

New look but business as usual

A year ago this weekend, what was exercising the mind of the radio community, or at least of the BBC division of it and its listeners? Believe it or not, one thing was the rearrangement of the evening schedules on Radio 4 – the deferment of *Kaleidoscope*, the advancement of *A Book at Bedtime*, the enlargement of *The World Tonight* and its integration with *The Financial World Tonight*.

Can you remember what the pattern was before last January 3? I'm blessed if I can. Like most rearrangements this one rapidly became part of the scene and by now the Radio 4 late evening seems as if it always was the way it is. But woe betide the next man who attempts to tamper with it.

As it opened, 1984 heralded another doubtful innovation for Radio 4. There was *Rollercoaster* on the horizon, which most of my colleagues and a large or at least a vocal, literate section of the audience greeted with cries of disdain. I must say, I thought and still think the censure disproportionate to the offence. Indeed, I didn't really notice an offence and nor, it seems, did that part of the audience which votes with its on-off switches.

Rollercoaster, in defiance of the switchback expectations set up by its title, actually did what was intended and evened out the morning's troughs a little.

However, there was to be another little change of which, by last New Year, nobody had warned us at all. And just as well for our peace of mind, for this was *The Colour Supplement*, which fell upon us in July like a load of junk food, brightly packaged, reeking of monosodium glutamate and virtually devoid of nourishment. Murmurs from the BBC suggested, though now perhaps with slightly less conviction, that here too the on-off switch vote showed a favourable reaction, but if it did, then I can only say that on this occasion the voters were seriously misled ...

I am sorry that the Radio 4 *Thursday Concert* slipped away unnoticed and apparently unwept, but it really is not possible to say of this network after David Hatch's first full year as controller that it is in anything but solid health.

Mr Hatch has more than kept his promise to provide a rich mix and the other bits of it (i.e., in addition to *The Colour Supplement*) that I have found uneatable – e.g., *Poles Apart* (confrontation gone mad), *It's Your World* (the nadir of the phone-in) – have been more than made up for by the successes. *State of the Nation*, that survey of Britain's economic and social health, was outstanding; there were countless programmes as uncommon and as absorbing as *Gamble of a Lifetime* (about the child gambling addict), although if there is one strand I would like to nominate for development in 1985, it is the style of humour delivered back in August by *Delve Special*, David Lander's take-off of investigative radio.

Radio 3 enters 1985 longer than it was a year ago by 45 minutes and that has loosened up its evening programming far more than you might think. No more does one large-scale play or opera have to dominate it so completely. This indeed may have contributed to other and more obvious changes which are also improvements – the emergence at last of a truly healthy line of comedy (Russell Davies's *Are You Still Awake?* amd Colin McLaren's *Broomhouse Reach*) is one I particularly welcome.

I also recognize the incisive qualities of the new arts review (or should it be revue?), *New Premises*, while feeling sometimes that if it gets any sharper it may do itself a nasty injury, and I wonder – as part of exercising the mind for 1985 – what sort of a fist Thomas Sutcliffe, the much approved young producer of this very upmarket cocktail, will make of his new appointment as editor of the relatively plebeian *Kaleidoscope*.

But I must confess that for me the two most gratifying memories of my Radio 3 listening in 1984 were Lewis Wolpert conducting that engrossing series of conversations with eminent scientists that began in September with Francis Crick (*Just Gossiping*), and the unequivocal emergence of BBC Radio Scotland's drama department during the Scottish season.

Outside these two networks, outside the BBC, what do I recall? Most, perhaps, that I have learnt to know and expect well of the name of Mark Halliley, who has turned in some very pungent social documentaries for Capital Radio.

But what should really exercise the mind for listeners facing 1985? More than anything, I suspect, it may be that imminent decision on the BBC licence fee. If that goes badly wrong – and I judge, by hints of public and political mood as well as by the need the BBC plainly feels energetically to justify a claim for £65, that go wrong it might – then this time next year may bring a sadder song.

David Wade

● Tomorrow's recital at the Royal Opera House by Katia Ricciarelli and Lucia Valentini-Terrani has been cancelled because of illness. There will be full refunds from the box office for ticket holders.

SPORTING DIARY

Simon Barnes

Trump this if you can

The special significance of 1985 is the bicentenary of cricket reports in *The Times*. It has reported other things, of course, but nothing so important as cricket. To celebrate the anniversary Marcus Williams has been burrowing among the archives and emerged bearing great armfuls of historic cricket match reports. Unquestionably the most intriguing is that of a match featuring Two Gentlemen of Middlesex against a farmer named Trumper, and his dog. *The Times* reports that huge sums of money were won and lost on the match. Trumper's side won because of the dog's superior fielding: it ran up with the bowler, charged the batsman, collected the ball and returned it to his master with alarming promptness. Was Trumper to go on to commit some misdemeanour, be transported to Australia and found the dynasty that produced the great V. T. Trumper, hammer of the English? *The Times* is silent on the matter. The report, with many others, will appear in Williams' book titled *Double Century: 200 years of cricket in The Times*, to be published in 1985. He cannot tell me if the dog batted.

Love all

Two bands of Yorkshiremen have been fighting for the right to call themselves "Yorkshire Cricket Lovers". The final result was a draw. Phil Carrick's benefit committee will be known as "Yorkshire Cricket Lovers' Society", while a group of businessmen seeking to overthrow the Yorkshire committee will call themselves "Yorkshire Cricket Devotees".

Point taken

Football press conferences often have their little moments of tension, but in Tanzania they eschew the scornful look or the snapped reply. When the national team coach, British-born Geoffrey Hudson, caught sight of journalist Jonas Mwasumbi at a press conference he shouted "You're a liar! You're a liar", seized Mwasumbi by the throat and repeatedly punched him until the two were pulled apart. Hudson later explained that he had been in something of a rage.

At the double

After my paragraph about the race up and down the 13,353 foot volcanic Mount Cameroon, Keith Lawson writes to report his own record, set in 1956. Mr Lawson, then of the Cameroon Development Corporation, set out to beat the existing record of 10 hours and murdered it, going up and down the mountain (with a bearer) in just under six hours. He wonders if anyone has since done better.

First hurdle

National Hunt courses are having difficulty finding the punters these days. Now the punters could find it hard to find National Hunt courses. Taunton race course officials have economized by telling the AA they can no longer pay for direction signs to the course.

Legless

Shinty players say their sport is the toughest in Britain – so tough that one of their stars, Sandy McKay, cannot find anyone to insure his right leg. "They all say they will insure the rest of me, but not the leg," said McKay. He had an operation on the knee six years ago after he received an injury – playing football.

That follows

A spot of Irish logic from Paddy McGowan, former manager of the League of Ireland side Finn Harps. McGowan was suspended by the Football Association of Ireland for six months for arguing with an official – and was promptly fired by his club. Philosophically, he said: "The only good thing about this is that the suspension means nothing now I am sacked."

● **Brentford football club have paid transfer fees for their two new players to Her Majesty. They bought Steve Butler and George Torrance out of the army.**

Wes's way

Senator Wesley Hall, the former West Indian fast bowler now managing the West Indian tour of destruction in Australia, and recently sacked as a brewery manager for devoting too much time to the game, is considering a new career as the players' business manager. He is proud of his record as team manager ("I have achieved what I wanted – the eradication of bad management") and believes his talents could extend to wheeler-dealing. He explained his policy for frustrated young players kept out of the side by the stars: "I persuaded them that to take a towel out to Viv Richards or to dry Clive Lloyd's socks is as good as scoring 20 or 30."

Generation gap

Corfu plans to celebrate the 150th anniversary of Corfiot cricket in 1985. The MCC have been invited to tour the island, a commemorative book is being produced by the Anglo-Corfu Cricket Committee and space has been promised by *The Cricketer* magazine. Now research reveals that the Greek islanders started to play cricket not in 1835, as thought, but in 1855. Probably. Never mind: they have decided to go ahead with the celebrations anyway. Expert observers report that the incident encapsulates all the heady charms of Corfiot cricket.

Young Miles' Almanac



Remember New Year's Day 1984? We don't either, but the vaguely recalled sense of foreboding was clearly misplaced. Emerging unscathed from Room 101, Miles Kington thinks it should have been reserved for 1985

January

Snow. Ice. After a pile-up on the M1, police say: "They were driving like maniacs. No, worse – they were driving like police cars." The National Union of Mineworkers transfers its funds to the Natwest, Port Stanley. The Receiver sets off in pursuit. Turmoil breaks out again at Yorkshire County Cricket Club, where at a general meeting Geoff Boycott is created General Boycott. Outside the club, pickets clash with police, ending in a draw. Ronald Reagan offers to go to Moscow for peace talks. It is pointed out to him that the US and the USSR are, in fact, at peace.

February

Ice. Snow. After a pile-up on the M1, police admit: "We were driving like maniacs." The Association of Mentally Hyperactive object strongly to the constant use by the police of the word "maniac". "This is the sort of thing that brings lunacy into disrepute," says a spokesmaniac. Just as the Receiver is about to reach the Falklands, the NUM switch their money to the Bank of Poland, in Warsaw. The Receiver hitches a lift on a passing Polish trawler. Mrs Thatcher introduces a law which will enable all future laws to contain advertising. Mr Reagan offers to go to Moscow if Mr Chernenko comes to Washington. It is pointed out to him that this will mean their passing each other somewhere over France.

March

Hail. Slush. After a pile-up on the M1, police say: "They were driving like people suffering from a temporary but quite normal and harmless period of stress". A spokesmadman for the Mentally Hyperactive says: "That's better." The Coal Board announces that large thefts of coal are being made from inactive pits, and threatens to switch its deposits of coal abroad. Nostalgia undergoes another revival in the USA (with the rerelease of *The Glenn Miller Story*) and in the USSR (with the revival of Stalin). The English cricket team in India ask for political asylum.

April

Sun. Snow. Ice. Mrs Thatcher introduces the Liverpool Abolition and Glen Cowrie Bill. The object, she explains, is twofold: firstly, to enable Parliament to disband the troublesome city of Liverpool and secondly, to sell larger quantities of Glen Gowrie, the ultimate in malt whisky because it's so smooth and yet has got so much character. And has become the first company to buy advertising in an Act of Parliament. Uproar in the House. At an extraordinary general geeting of the Yorkshire CCC, Geoff Boycott is created Extraordinary General. Reagan proposes collaboration with the USSR, initially to invade Nicaragua together. It is pointed out to him that this would be the act of a madman.

May

Cloud. Rain. Damp. The Mentally Hyperactive complain that to describe Reagan as a madman brings madness into disrepute. The Receiver finally reaches Poland in his trawler, only to find that the NUM have transferred all their funds to the People's Bank of Afghanistan, in Kabul. The USSR continue their Stalin nostalgia season with the issue of the *Joe Stalin Story*. It tells how bandleader Joe Stalin was always looking for the perfect sound for dancing, which he achieves mostly by shooting any saxophonist who doesn't fit in. The Cup Final is won by an English team. Ronald Reagan proposes to counter the Stalin cult by rehabilitating the memory of Senator McCarthy.

June

Haze. Warm mud. Couple of nice sunsets. Reagan's proposals condemned by the Mentally Hyperactive as the sort of thing that gives commonsense a bad name. The BBC is granted a £65 licence fee on condition it introduces advertising. A new British car is introduced, which goes no faster than 30 mph and is made almost entirely of foam rubber: the Ford Siesta. The Receiver's Punitive Expedition to Afghanistan sets off. Ronald Reagan proposes to cut the enormous cost of nuclear forces by asking Richard Branson to start cut-price bombing sorties to Moscow.

July

Hot. Muggy. Stuffy. There is a pile-up of Ford Siestas on the M1 involving more than 30 of them, but no one is hurt as they all bounce off each other. Police say: "They were driving like clowns". Association of *Circus Humorists* welcomes this statement and pours buckets of water over Chief Constable. Stalin revival continues in Russia with production of new musical *Not Tonight, Joseph*. Mrs Thatcher announces that the cost of the overland expedition to Afghanistan by the Receiver has already risen to £3m, and it is still only in Baluchistan.

August

Warm. Wet. Soggy. Mrs Thatcher introduces into Parliament the new Johnson's Adult Powder and Herbal After-Shave Bill, the first parliamentary Act in history which contains all advertising and no legislation. Uproar. It is passed by a big, and very sweet-smelling, majority. There is a pile-up of clowns' cars on the M1; witnesses say that the cars all fell to bits before they hit each other. A police spokesman says: "That's showbiz". President Reagan proposes to reduce the budget deficit by starting a $100 billion libel suit against Chernenko for all the things he has been saying about him.

September

Windy. Dry. Chilly. A pile-up on the M4 but nobody notices as the motorway is shrouded in smoke from stubble burning for three weeks. The English County Championship is won by an English team. A million Britons leave the country but agree to come back two weeks later. A police spokesman says: "They were behaving like holidaymakers". Mrs Thatcher announces that at last the Commons have received commercial backing and in the new session they will be renamed the Saatchi Parliament. Uproar. Fierce fighting is reported from Afghanistan, where the Receiver's Task Force has bought its way to within 100 miles of the capital.

October

Mild. Dull. Drizzly. In Russia, Stalin's corpse goes on public display simultaneously in 42 major cities. In Yorkshire, at the annual general meeting of the County Club, Extraordinary General Boycott is reduced in rank to Annual General. Admission of Spain and Portugal to the EEC is held up after the discovery of an unsuspected British football supporter mountain. The National Coal Board announces that it has completed the transfer of all productive coal-faces abroad, and the miners' strike is *de facto* over, as there are no longer any British miners. Ronald Reagan suggests sending back Solzhenitsyn to Russia, *as a gesture of goodwill*.

November

Dark. Damp. Drear. Mrs Thatcher announces in Parliament that in future all pile-ups on Britain's motorways will be commercially sponsored, and that the first one will be the Superior Sticky Plaster crash on Dec 1. Uproar. The Receiver's Task Force enters the outskirts of Kabul after talking its way through three Russian divisions, only to find that NUM funds have been transferred to Moscow, at Barclay's branch on New Stalin Street. The force hitches a lift with a Russian tank. A Ford Siesta owner makes legal history by arguing successfully that as his inflated car was floating *above* a yellow line, he was not illegally parked. Nicaragua invades the USA, encountering little resistance.

December

Cold. Dank. Horrible. The Superior Sticky Plaster M1 Disaster is a fiasco, as in perfect driving conditions all the vehicles miss each other. Uproar. Mrs Thatcher promises to resign, as soon as she finds a sponsor. The Receiver reaches Barclay's Bank in Moscow and is arrested for queue-barging; he is transferred to Siberia for psychiatric examination. At a Yorkshire County Club committee meeting, Geoff Boycott is replaced by a committee. Ronald Reagan suggests bombing Texas, as that is where most Nicaraguans now are. Most states think this is a good idea. Foreign miners go on strike over having to mine British coal. Ronald Reagan suggests going straight on to 1986. It is the first good idea he has had all year.

Woodrow Wyatt

A relationship to be cherished

Mrs Thatcher's Washington stop-over showed that the special relationship not only exists but gets results. The clarification that research would continue on Star Wars weapons but that they would not be produced or deployed without prior negotiation with the Russians, in accordance with existing treaties, was of as much interest to Americans as it was to Europeans.

The problem has ceased to be immediate: 20 years seems to be the minimum period for the preparation of these expensive weapons, which may or may not be a good idea.

There are Jewish, black, Irish and various other ethnic and regional votes to be canvassed in American presidential elections. There is no British vote to be specially solicited because, despite the dissimilarities, America is based on a British culture and approach to life and politics. The British influence is all pervasive. The USA is a much more committed *de facto* member of the Commonwealth than India or the other non Anglo-Saxon members. That most of the latter play cricket and the USA does not is an accident of the Civil War when the troops on either side, unable to prepare cricket pitches, developed the old English game of rounders into baseball.

The American parliamentary system is the same as ours with one great improvement. The founding fathers did not want their equivalent of George III interfering in parliament and would not allow his cabinet ministers to sit in it. So they put the president in the White House and excluded the members of his government from Congress, thus severely diminishing the patronage he would have on Capitol Hill. We went the other way, putting George III (in the shape of the modern prime minister), with the power to choose the cabinet and dispense patronage, directly into Parliament while removing from the head of state all checks against the prime minister. Hence the flaccidity of the Commons compared with Congress.

No matter how great the floods of immigrants into the USA the British ethos has transformed them all. Loss of confidence as we declined in world power has blinded us to this immutable fact. Sometimes we have been deluded by our own unattractive bouts of anti-Americanism into believing that we no longer count in the USA. Fortunately Americans are more generous to our faults than we to theirs. It is possible that not even a Kinnock government one-sidedly destroying British nuclear weapons and removing American nuclear bases could entirely wreck the special relationship. Americans would wait patiently for the return of a more sensible British government.

Without the logistical help of the USA the Falklands might well have been a disaster, not a triumph. The USA put its important physical and political interests in Central and South America below its instinctive special feelings for Britain. In 1956 we insulted the Americans by not telling them that we were about to launch the mad attack on Egypt. After the shock of the initial affront the USA did its best to salvage what it could for its temporarily deranged ally.

At least Britain was informed about the proposed American operation in Grenada. A misplaced pride prompted the British government's critical observations, to which Washington reacted with tolerance rather than with anger. Since the recent elections in Grenada, President Reagan can justifiably claim that he was right and we were wrong, but he has not rubbed it in.

The special relationship between two partners of greatly unequal strength works because the Americans know that we are unshakeably on their side and accept our misgivings in that spirit. It was Attlee, more than President Truman, who stopped General MacArthur extending the war in Korea and advised Truman how to curb the power of that megalomaniac general. It was Ernest Bevin who galvanized the Americans into recognizing the need for and implementing the Berlin airlift.

Sentimentality is a significant part of the appeal which the special relationship has for the USA. The astonishing admiration which Americans still have for the British



When the special relationship paid off: General MacArthur's attempt to extend the Korean war was stopped only after Clement Attlee (left) put pressure on President Truman

often goes beyond what we deserve. Currently it is heightened by their enormous respect for Mrs Thatcher's struggle to halt the British decline. Americans do not mind President Reagan listening to her, they actually welcome it.

But beyond the sentimentality there are practical reasons for the Americans continuing the special relationship. Britain is their most genuine friend: even a Labour government under Harold Wilson was almost alone in the world in supporting America in Vietnam. In Europe Britain is America's most reliable ally. It is as unthinkable to Americans that we would fail, even if France and West Germany did, to support the USA if war broke out with Russia (though the firmness of the Anglo-American alliance has been the major factor in making that a remote possibility) as it would be unthinkable for the Americans not to support us if Russia attacked Britain.

True, the Americans turned up somewhat late in both world wars, but they were never going to let us lose them when it came to the crunch. The Americans now understand that in another world war it would be too late to come in late and would be there from the beginning. Quite apart from the threat to America involved in the destruction of Western Europe is the belief carved into the American heart, born of love, that Britain must not die. It would be possible for the Americans to withdraw into Fortress America but the shame of having abandoned Britain would be too great to bear.

The greatest danger to world peace would be if the Russians thought that the special relationship was wearing out. Mrs Thatcher is wise to keep nourishing it frequently and publicly so that it remains beyond doubt.

From bow to baton: Michael Binyon on Menuhin's latest venture

A musical tour de force in three acts: aged 12, soon after making his debut as a soloist; with Sir Thomas Beecham when a teenage international celebrity, and (right) rehearsing the Bonn Opera orchestra in Mozart's 'Titus'

On safari, with strings attached

Bonn

Few musicians are as celebrated or instantly recognizable. For almost 60 years audiences have watched the narrow, sensitive face poised over his instrument, the serenity of expression belying his passionate interpretation. But on Christmas Day a glittering audience in Bonn's opera house saw only the back of his head. For Yehudi Menuhin it was making his debut as a conductor and musical director of opera.

The magnificent performance of Mozart's last opera, *Titus*, was one of the year's jewels in Bonn. For Yehudi Menuhin it was an achievement of peculiar personal significance. Not only was it his own tribute to a composer who has been a major force in his life since his father took him to Salzburg half a century ago, but also an influential attempt to rehabilitate an opera that has almost disappeared from public performance.

"Nothing really happens in *Titus*", he said. "But it is perfect theatre, uniting philosophy and morality. We actually run through the whole gamut of human feelings, from the lowest to the highest, from terror to safety, from the joy of companionship to final loneliness. The drama is never lost, but Mozart never gives up the elegant form."

Titus also marks a change in Menuhin's own life. He has conducted before – both at his Bath festival, and in regular yearly engagements in Berlin. He has also produced Mozart opera before. But never has he had such complete control of a production, going over every word and gesture with the producer, working from scratch with a team, rehearsing every morning and evening for five weeks. And never in 60 years has he stayed so long in one place without travelling – not even at home in London.

"It's like an adventure for me – like a businessman who's collected books on Africa finally going on a safari. Well, not quite, because I do know the animals – I have played the music. But it's wonderful being part of a complete conception, making the most glorious music. It's so different from the life of a violinist, where he is totally responsible for himself alone."

That life which began at the age of eight in San Francisco on March 25 1925 is one of extraordinary strain, and a long list of hotel rooms, travelling, and fascinating invitations turned down because of engagements booked two years in advance. He knows the sacrifices his wife Diana (who gave up her career as a ballet dancer) has had to make. Although now he feels at home in most major cities, it has been an endless succession of brief stays – "and perhaps I'm getting weary of that".

By contrast Bonn, of all places, has captivated Menuhin. It offers tranquillity, regularity, the chance to meet diplomats and statesmen, psychologists and artists. He has been entertained by all those with whom he has affinities or family connections – and for the first time since his debut in Dresden and Berlin, in 1929, he has had a chance to live among Germans.

They have been more than honoured. President von Weizsäcker, former President Carstens, Chancellor Kohl and Willy Brandt have all invited or met him. Bonn has asked him to sign the golden book and *Die Welt* have published a lengthy front-page interview.

As a Jew, the son of Hassidic Russian immigrants to America, Menuhin has thought much about Germany. After 1933 he refused to play here because of the persecution of Jews, but he returned immediately after the war, a gesture that has never been forgotten (though one that was misinterpreted by ardent Zionists). He was the first person to play German music in Jerusalem after the war, and he has been much struck by Germans' repentance for the country's Nazi past.

"Today's Germany is civilized because it is working off penance, and penance is a very healthy human condition", says Menuhin. "I wish this realization existed everywhere and that more people regretted what is happening in the world today – in Ethiopia, in Vietnam, and where next?"

Yehudi Menuhin has never flinched from the responsibility of an artist and public figure to speak out. Although suspicious of many protest groups he will sign letters and perform concerts for those organizations he admires, such as Amnesty International and Greenpeace. He refuses, even at the cost of embarrassment and upset, to be tactful or quiet when he sees wrong. The Russians could not get over his praise for Solzhenitsyn and Sakharov in a public lecture in Moscow: they refused his recent request to give concerts in Moscow to honour David Oistrakh 10 years after his death. And when the Soviet ambassador in Bonn, a keen art collector, met him recently at an exhibition of anti-Nazi artists and remarked, "Modern art is never understood", he replied discomfortingly: "But it doesn't have to be persecuted."

"It would have been so easy to keep quiet in Russia. But I just couldn't." He feels strongly about terrorism, whether in St James's Square or against Arabs on a bus in Jerusalem.

It is partly the sense of public responsibility that lies behind Menuhin's formation seven years ago of "Live Music Now," a workshop for young musicians who play where mostly there is never music – in prisons, mental hospitals and barracks. Last year they gave more than 1,000 concerts in Britain, and the scheme has spread to four other countries. But as important to the musicians is the invaluable experience of making music for an audience. During the war Yehudi Menuhin gave more than 500 concerts for soldiers in hospitals, at the front and even on the remote Aleutian islands.

This – and his violinists' school – is where much of his infectious enthusiasm now lies. He is by no means abandoning the instrument he has probably played longer, making more recordings – some 500 in all – than anyone else. But already he talks wistfully of these past five weeks' stability, of the excitement of working with Maria Francesca Siciliani, the producer, and, of course, of Mozart. "Like Shakespeare, Mozart cannot be wrong, because he has the compassion, love, feeling – even for crime – that is the key to human emotion. There is nothing wilful, artificial, synthetic. Mozart takes you into the inner core of a person, and it is really wonderful to go with him." No wonder Menuhin's *Titus* seems set to become a cultural landmark for Bonn.

Colin Webb

L'eau life but no sparkle

There are two and a half possible temporal reasons for the fact that suddenly mineral water has become *de rigueur* on almost every dining table. Like the stuff itself each is refreshingly attractive.

The first is the age. Are we so devoid of interest in alcohol *per se* that we now reach thankfully for something without it on health grounds? Could it be that man is at last turning away from the water of life (that too often means death), to pure water, Malvern, Highland, Ashbourne, Perrier, or whatever, itself? Are we getting back to natural things in their purest healthiest form? Wishful thinking that. We have had lots of healthy steps forwards but always each is accompanied by two steps back; in the search for natural healthy taste, if that is what it is, society has also moved backwards with the current interest in drugs. Gassy gurgling water does not sit well with sniffing and snorting.

The second, more likely, is not the age but my age. It is the awkward in-between time (but then what age of man is not inbetween ages?), between later youth and, er, middle age. And mineral water seems an inbetween drink. It comes after the sherry and before the port. In that slot it appears as well as and often instead of the wine.

And this is an inbetween time of year, of course. Between Christmas Day and New Year's Eve, we are between broken resolutions and unkeepable ones. Between gluttony and a diet, between calendars, between diaries, between turkey meals (turkey mousse this weekend), between getting of gifts and giving thanks, between the nativity and the slaughter of the innocents, between summer holidays, between longer stays.

Mind you, I doubt that "the inbetween drink" is the stuff of advertising slogans. There was a sweet you could eat between meals, but who remembers which that one was? The drink you can take between *proper* drinks sounds as likely to be successful a campaign as the cigarette to smoke when you are alone (on the grounds that with it you were not alone; but those who flashed its packets soon felt stranded by the campaign and the cigarettes soon were too.)

People who are upwardly mobile are all about getting there, not being where they are now, stuck (temporarily) between groups. The whole point of the young upwardly mobile crowd is that they are on the move and coming, not inbetween and sticking: "caught between peer groups? Then you should drink..." Scrub that one too.

And we of an, er, uncertain age, want to be in one of the seven ages of man, not one of the ageless people like the stateless, stuck in tents between homes, refugees, unwanted, passportless. The sort of also-rans who get vests and socks for Christmas presents not butch after-shave stuff. No, scrub the inbetween association entirely and let's get on with getting older quickly.

The half reason is that dreadful excuse for every temporal thing: it is the fashion. After the kir and the pink champagne, are we into sparkling H_2O as *the* drink because everyone else has it, never mind what the stuff tastes like? Not so; even the exalted art gallery man at his private lunch table proferred the green bottle with a warm enthusiasm that paid no lip service to fashion: "No meal seems complete without it wherever you go these days. It is so civilized." (He is inbetween too, but according to my *Whose Who?* he is inbetween middle age and, er, graceful seniority.)

It comes back to my age then, and I suppose one goes off the grape when one thinks of its descriptions at this sensitive personal age. "Fullbodied", "warm", "ready to lay down", "vintage", "heady stuff".

Now I would have settled for that sort of association half a generation ago; today I prefer to be associated with the stuff that is "sparkling", "natural", "pure", "cleansing", "delicious", "enlivening", "mixes wonderfully", "wholesome". And definitely *declarée d'intérêt public*. Pass me the green bottle at once. Oh and the red one too please: I've just noticed that the fine print says you can add it to wine...

TIMES PAST THE TIMES
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A HOUSE STILL DIVIDED

Public attention lately has naturally been concentrated primarily on the affairs of the Government and of the Conservative Party. Apart from its last unseemly party conference, which was virtually taken over by Mr Scargill, Labour has claimed little attention. Even the comparatively minor quarrels in the Conservative Party over ways and means of dealing with unemployment or local government have understandably loomed larger than the much more significant divisions within the Labour Party about its fundamental political aims. That, however, is in some respects a pity since, for all Dr David Owen's brave prediction that the Alliance parties will hold the parliamentary balance at the next general election, the present evidence still suggests that Labour will be Mrs Thatcher's principal challenger when the time comes.

The state of the Labour Party therefore remains of fundamental public importance, and the noises from the left this week threatening to challenge Mr Neil Kinnock's leadership next year are a significant guide to the continuing crisis of identity which still unfits the party for government in a parliamentary democracy.

For what is Mr Kinnock's offence? It is not, apparently, that he is thought to be weak on traditional socialist policies. Nor is it that he is prepared to support his deputy, Mr Roy Hattersley, in an attempt to reverse the Labour Party's present commitment to remove all US nuclear bases from Britain. He is not. What has stung the hard left, in and out of parliament, is Mr Kinnock's failure to give full support to Mr Scargill's strike in the coal mines. Mr Kinnock has supported the miners' case over pit closures (it would be virtually impossible for a Labour leader to do otherwise) but he has not only condemned violence on the picket lines but has also failed to conceal his reservations about the way in which Mr Scargill has conducted the strike. For this reason there is talk of a hard left challenge to Mr Kinnock's leadership next year, probably by a lesser figure than Mr Tony Benn, as a warning to Mr Kinnock rather than in any hope of unseating him.

It is highly illuminating that the trigger for this attack on Mr Kinnock should be his rather gingerly refusal to underwrite Mr Scargill's methods or be associated with them. What this reveals is that the essential struggle in the Labour Party is still between those wings which accept parliamentary democracy as having precedence over what the hard left calls party democracy, and the fundamentalist elements which pin their hopes on extra-parliamentary action and pressures of which Mr Scargill's strategy is the epitome. Here is a union trying to destroy an elected government by action outside parliament, and Mr Kinnock is not prepared to take its side without qualification.

In this struggle within the Labour Party, there is now an alliance between the soft left, of which Mr Kinnock himself is the principal representative, and the centre right of the party, and this should be strong enough to ensure Mr Kinnock's safety if there is a challenge to his leadership. But the fact that such a challenge is contemplated is itself indicative of what troubles lie ahead of him.

On a tactical level, such an attempt to constrain if not unseat Mr Kinnock will once more illuminate the divisions in the Labour Party about what it really stands for. More deeply, it will show that if Labour were to gain power, a government under Mr Kinnock would once again be faced by the implacable hostility of the party's fundamentalist left which is never prepared to compromise and is never willing to learn a lesson from the electorate about what the public wants. It is prepared to learn nothing from the years of Mrs Thatcher's government about people's attachment to as much personal responsibility as they can get and their dislike of the imperatives of socialist statism.

As it is, Mr Kinnock is having to pay a high price for the alliance between the soft left and the moderates. There is, for instance, no evidence to suggest that the soft left would ever countenance a modification of the party's present defence policy. There is little evidence to suggest that the soft left is prepared to learn anything significant from its two defeats at Mrs Thatcher's hands, whether over economic or social policy. Mr Kinnock is sustained against attack from the unparliamentary left by an alliance of soft left and moderates which itself lacks much common ground. Mrs Thatcher has had an uncomfortable end to 1984 but when attention is for a moment diverted to the Labour Party its dilemmas are quickly seen to be much more profound.

SHARPER LEFT IN MALTA

The people of Malta, now under the guidance of a new prime minister, are looking forward to 1985 with mixed feelings. So too are those abroad whose future is for one reason or another intertwined with that of this small but eventful island.

Gone, at the age of 68, is Mr Dom Mintoff whose ebullient personality has dominated Maltese politics, for better or worse, virtually since the Second World War. In his place now stands Mr Mifsud Bonnici, his adoptive political heir, who in the end has inherited a deeply divided nation.

There have been times during the last 35 years when the retirement of Mr Mintoff would have been greeted with relief by a number of governments, most notably the British. Nato officials still recall how their own Secretary-General Dr Joseph Luns, after offering to mediate in the Anglo-Maltese talks over basing facilities, was soon reduced to shouting and banging on the table, by the uncompromising little premier from Valetta.

Mr Mintoff himself still sometimes refers to the true date of Malta's independence (officially 1964) as being 1979 when the Royal Navy finally left Grand Harbour. But then last year he was taking on East and West together at the European Security Conference in Madrid, forcing the superpowers into unholy alliance by his refusal to come to terms.

At home his dictatorial approach has been if anything more controversial. Intolerance of criticism has led him and some of his Labour party supporters down dubious paths. *The Times of Malta* offices were burned down in one unfortunate episode, while his uncertain victory in the last election was won only after boundary changes which exposed him to the charge of gerrymandering.

Only this autumn the feud between Church and State over fee-paying Catholic schools erupted in several ugly incidents when a mob of shipyard workers ransacked the archbishop's palace and law courts in Valetta. The Labour party has no cause to love the Church which some years ago preached against Mr Mintoff from the pulpits with most unsaintly zeal. But these recent excesses have done him and his party no good.

They are especially regrettable because Mr Mintoff had undoubtedly done much that is good for the people. State pensions and medical care together with a minimum wage have helped raise the standard of living for the poor who had previously had to rely upon charity from the rich and powerful Church. His administration has been sometimes referred to as the government of social services.

Moreover those who once sought the downfall of this infuriating maverick of the Western Mediterranean are wondering if in six months' time they might be longing for his return. For Mr Bonnici does not only look likely to be grey and humourless if hard-working successor. More important is the fact that his committed left-wing orthodoxy represents a significant shift from the idiosyncratic "soft" socialism of the Mintoff era.

It was Mr Bonnici who as Minister of Education led the attack on Catholic schools and who, according to his critics, inspired some of the violence which occurred. It was certainly Mr. Mintoff himself who eventually had to step in and patch up the present truce between Church and State which has allowed him to "make way for a younger man" – as he puts it. Even Dom Mintoff knew in the end when to settle. Does Mr. Bonnici?

Never himself elected - he was co-opted to the government by his mentor, - he has already made ominous noises about cancelling the election in two years' time in the event of "foreign interference." On the other hand he is now handling an electorate which flexed its political muscle over the schools row and might be prepared to do so again. Malta remains a deeply Catholic country.

He must also feel personally insecure. Longer-serving members of the Mintoff Cabinet must have fancied their chances of the succession. For that reason no doubt he has not so far risked a re-shuffle of posts - and for that reason too is unlikely to abandon the policies of his predecessor - for the time being anyway. Malta watchers in the West must hope that by the time he feels more confident, Mr Bonnici will have to start thinking of the next election and that the people will make sure that he goes to the polls on cue.

WILL PEKING CHOP THE CHOPSTICKS?

Another shock for the Chinese, more unsettling perhaps even than last month's official proclamation of the fallibility of Marx. In one of its articles with hints on home lifestyle this week, the *People's Daily* suggests that chopsticks are outmoded. Marx has held sway in Chinese affairs for no more than 40 years, but chopsticks have been in general use for at least 2,000 years. "We should prepare more knives and forks, buy more plates and sit around the table to eat Chinese food in western style", says the paper, and no less a person than Hu Yaobang simultaneously promulgated the same doctrine to an audience of peasants, probably resigned by now to any imaginable upheaval.

The campaign really seems to be directed less at chopsticks than at the genial old custom of everybody shovelling their food out of the same dish, with consequent risk of cross-infection with hepatitis and other ailments. No doubt there is sound hygenic principle behind this. But chopsticks, though requiring some dexterity to deploy, are clean, efficient and graceful in themselves, as their vernacular name, *kwai-tsze*, "the speedy ones", implies ("chop", too, has the same significance in pidgin).

The way they are scornfully dragged into the argument suggests undue readiness to fall under the spell of western practices – an attitude far removed from the more typical spirit of national self-confidence expressed in the second century BC by the poet and statesman Jia Yi, who proposed a chain of restaurants along the empire's northern border, "each with a first-rate menu", to mollify and beguile the vexatious nomadic barbarians with the irresistible charms of a cuisine already ages old. Unfortunately this most civilised of projected defence systems was never tested. Instead a less benign regime started work on the Great Wall a generation or two later – an alternative whose very imperfect success suggests that Jia Yi's idea might have been better.

It may be ill-considered for the Chinese to move away from chopsticks at a period when their use must be more widespread among the barbarians in Europe and America than at any time in the past. The Japanese, whose relationship with things western is still more complex and anxious, are growing concerned that the knife and fork are beginning to cause the elegant art of the sticks *(hashi,* in Japanese) to fall into disuse there. A report released by the Japanese Ministry of Education in May disclosed that fewer than half the country's elementary pupils claimed to be competent in managing chopsticks. Even adults are often seen resorting to the ignominious "dog-style" *(inugui),* with chin in bowl to avoid cascades of noodles in the lap, if deprived of western cutlery.

This worries the Japanese very much, The Tokyo police department has introduced a crash course in chopstick etiquette for recruits, on the grounds that "using the hands is good for the brain." Many Japanese scholars claim that the discipline of cornering the individual rice-grain with the tips has fostered a special deftness of hand and eye in their nation. Commenting on the government report, Professor Yatagai of Keihin Women's University asserted:" Some people even think that *hashi* are responsible for the dexterity and resourcefulness that helped bring about Japan's economic boom." Perhaps all the achievement of the country's economic miracle could be dissipated by a new generation of westernized butter-fingers – a reflection that ought to give rise to thought in Peking as well as in Tokyo. It is certainly one that casts a new light on all that occidental browsing and sluicing so merrily carried on in Chinese restaurants all over Britain, not uncommonly with the proper tools, over the bamboo shoots, Peking duck and the crab claws in ginger. School catering services, please note.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Rationale of US defence study

From Air Vice-Marshal S. W. B. Menaul

Sir, In his article, "Shoot down this perilous idea" (December 19), Lord Kennet adds his voice to the growing number of ill-informed critics of the United States strategic defence initiative. Most of those who have so far ventured an opinion on the concept of defending against attack by ballistic missiles have demonstrated a remarkable lack of knowledge of what SDI is all about, the technology that makes such a defence system possible and how it could contribute to stability and a reduction in the nuclear arsenals of the superpowers.

Lord Kennet tells us that "Mr Reagan, without consulting his defence secretary or his scientific establishment, ordered a great research programme to put nuclear weapons, and thus nuclear deterrence, out of date by constructing an invisible shield in the heavens". What utter nonsense. He did nothing of the sort.

After detailed study of various proposals submitted by at least three different study groups between 1980 and 1982, the President set up the Defence Technologies Study Group under the direction of Dr James Fletcher to examine and report on the feasibility of a strategic defence system. The Fletcher committee reported to the President in November, 1982, and four months later, after further study and discussions with the best scientific brains in the United States, the strategic defence initiative was established under the direction of General James Abrahamson.

The SDI is simply a research programme into a new concept of non-nuclear defence against ballistic missiles, whether nuclear or conventionally armed. The best scientific brains in the United States believe that an effective BMD (ballistic missile defence) system can be developed, but whether or not it would be deployed would depend on the outcome of discussions with the Soviet Union on the future military uses of space.

We spend millions on surface-to-air missiles and manned interceptor aircraft to defend against manned bombers. Ballistic missiles and manned bombers are simply different means to achieve the same objective, i.e., the attack of targets in enemy territory with explosive warheads. Missiles travel through space on their trajectories to their targets; bombers travel through the air on a similar mission. It is just as logical to defend against ballistic missiles as it is to provide elaborate defences against manned bombers.

The SDI is an imaginative and progressive research project which has so far received little recognition in Europe, due largely to ignorance and lack of interest, even though a ground and space-based system would provide defence for Europe as well as the United States.

Yours faithfully,
STEWART MENAUL,
The Lodge,
Frensham Vale,
Lower Bourne,
Farnham,
Surrey.
December 20.

Putting industry on firmer footing

From Sir Ian Morrow

Sir, The "blueprint for 1985" (feature, December 20) is to be welcomed as an admirable statement emphasizing the disadvantages that British industry suffers, in comparison with its competitors, in endeavouring to reduce unit costs and increase productivity.

Two points might be added. Our main competitors sub-contract far more of their production than is the practice in this country and double-shift working (at a small premium) is much more widespread.

If our major companies would put into practice the policy of maximising sub-contracting it would lead to greater efficiency and more flexible working. Double-shift working means lower costs and higher productivity and the ability, for the same investment, of employing 30 to 50 per cent more people.

Yours faithfully,
IAN MORROW,
2 Albert Terrace Mews, NW1.
December 21.

From Professor A. Kennaway

Sir, The open letter, "Jobs – a blueprint for 1985" (December 20), is as inadequate as blueprints are obsolete. It is depressing that eminent people, some even with business experience, still think that successful business is primarily based upon the factors they discuss – wage rates, productivity and fiscal measures – whilst they can ignore the kernel of the issue.

The steady decline in manufacturing industry in this country is directly attributable to the failure of firms to appreciate what the market wants, to design goods and services that correspond to that demand in appeal, performance and value for money. This depends at least as much upon design as upon the organisation of production, itself dependent on management thought as well as upon wage rates.

It is often said that we produce more Nobel prizewinners in science than our competitors and yet we perform worse in turning science into saleable products. One reason is the absence of people in industry capable of appreciating that good science can be applied to profitable business; another is the paucity of academics who can show industrialists how to achieve this; but in my experience in recent years this is less true, whereas the former is regrettably valid.

Educated and imaginative people are needed, not only in the boardroom, although this is the prime and urgent need, but also at every level, including the shop floor. We have never had the level of education and training in our workforce the equal of the Germans or the Japanese and so we have made the error of trying to design processes that are foolproof and then employing people without giving them the opportunity to develop skills, knowledge and attitudes that would ensure quality performance and products.

Yours faithfully,
A. KENNAWAY,
Imperial College of Science and Technology,
Department of Mechanical Engineering,
Exhibition Road, SW7.
December 21.

Picket line violence

From Professor Glanville Williams, QC, FBA, and Mr Francis Bennion

Sir, Sir William Clark asked in the House of Commons: "In view of the fact the NUM is paying its pickets out of union funds if it can get its hands on them, is not that tacit evidence that the leadership is condoning if not encouraging this violence on the picket lines?"

Sir Patrick Mayhew replied: "There has to be evidence of an offence, including a conspiracy, before there is any reasonable prospect of a conviction" (report, December 4).

Whatever the position may be with regard to proof of an offence of violence, no doubt can reasonably be felt that mass picketing is at least a summary offence of "watching and besetting" under the Conspiracy and Protection of Property Act 1875.

Mass picketing, the avowed object and effect of which is to block entrances to workplaces and to intimidate workers, cannot by any stretch of the imagination be described as peaceful picketing. It follows that the organisers can be charged either with watching and besetting or with conspiring to do so. Moreover, they are pretty obviously guilty of unlawful assembly or riot.

One suspects that the real reason why they are not prosecuted is the fear that this will prolong the strike.

But the policy is highly questionable, because it can easily bring about a climate of opinion in which disorder and violence become regarded as a normal accompaniment of such disputes. The most effective way of stopping the disorder may well be to demonstrate that the leaders are not above the ordinary law.

The point should always be clearly made, when prosecuting unlawful picketing, that the law is not being used to end the strike, but only to punish illegalities committed by any persons in the course of the strike.

Another difficulty is that if it should happen that those responsible for organising the disorder are none other than the executive committee of the union, and if in consequence all these persons find themselves in prison, it may be inconvenient to arrange a meeting of the two sides in the prison to negotiate an end to the strike.

No doubt judges would bear this consideration in mind when sentencing. A substantial fine might be regarded as meeting the case, which would at least be a public vindication of the law and end the anomaly of prosecuting the rank and file while ignoring their leaders.

Further, for the purpose of obtaining a judicial clarification of the law, the trade union should itself be charged in such circumstances.

We also need an amendment of the peaceful picketing provision to put a firm limit on the number of pickets permissible. Contrary to general belief, there is no "right" to picket in the sense that people are obliged to stop and listen to the pickets.

They cannot assemble in such numbers as to make the highway impassable. They cannot stand to obstruct people or vehicles entering the workplace, even though this means that in practice they are unable to communicate with the people they want to reach.

Yours faithfully,
GLANVILLE WILLIAMS,
FRANCIS BENNION,
Merrion Gate,
Gazeley Road,
Cambridge.

Austen marriages not à la mode

From Mr T. W. Mayberry

Sir, James Fenton, in his review (December 20) of Professor John Halperin's biography of Jane Austen, makes much of the entries which Jane Austen allegedly forged at different times in the registers of banns and marriages for the parish of Steventon. He goes so far as to suggest that her actions are "highly indicative of a disturbed mind", and interprets them as an ill-judged practical joke directed at her father, the rector.

Perhaps he does it to tease, but a word of clarification may be appropriate none the less.

The entries were made, evidently on a single occasion during Jane Austen's youth, in a combined register of banns and marriages, 1755-1812, and appear, not in the body of the volume, but as additions to the printed specimen page provided for the guidance of clergymen.

Above the *A.B.* and *C.D.* which stand for names in the specimen entries Jane Austen has added her own name and those of two imaginary gentlemen. For her prospective husband in the banns entry she chooses Henry Frederic Howard Fitzwilliam, of London; in the marriage entry below he has become Edmund Arthur William Mortimer, of Liverpool, though not satisfied even with him, she has the new husband and wife sign themselves Jack Smith and Jane Smith "late Austen". Jack and Jane are also the witnesses.

Such additions scarcely amount to forgery, appearing in their context to be as playful as Halperin suggests and unable to bear the weight of significance Mr Fenton thinks he finds. If they are significant of anything, then perhaps, as one might expect, it is of an irony Jane Austen directs against herself: she imagines two husbands with fine-sounding names, but settles after a moment's thought for the more realistic prospect of becoming plain Jane Smith.

Yours faithfully,
T. W. MAYBERRY,
Hampshire Record Office,
20 Southgate Street,
Winchester,
Hampshire.
December 22.

From Mr Leslie Dunkling

Sir, In his review (December 20) of the latest Jane Austen biography, James Fenton makes the natural assumption that affection for the novelist has led to the renewed popularity of Emma as a first name. The indexes of births at St Catherine's House [10 Kingsway, WC2] show quite clearly that the use of Emma was suddenly revived in the late 1960s.

It is unlikely that the self-satisfied cleverness of Miss Emma Woodhouse had suddenly caught the public's imagination, but there is ample evidence that they were responding well at the time to Mrs Emma Peel, in the television series *The Avengers*, as portrayed by Diana Rigg. Come to think of it, she was self-satisfied and clever too, but she obviously gave Emma an acceptable modern image.

Yours faithfully,
LESLIE DUNKLING,
32 Speer Road,
Thames Ditton, Surrey.

Spirit of Christmas

From Dr R. W. Ainsworth and Dr Janet Cooper

Sir, We regret that Mrs Howard-Johnston (December 22) was so disappointed by the Midnight Mass at St Mary's last year, but we are concerned that in her letter she may inadvertently have given your readers a somewhat misleading impression of the service.

We do, by the congregation's choice, use the Alternative Service Book, and we do shake hands at the Peace as a gesture of greeting and fellowship, but Mrs Howard-Johnston's other complaints derive from her experience in other churches.

St Mary's is always full of candles for the Midnight Mass, although in such a large building it is necessary to supplement the candle light with some electric light, and the hymns are always traditional Christmas ones. We avoid having to announce page or paragraph numbers by providing clearly duplicated service sheets.

Yours sincerely,
R. W. AINSWORTH,
JANET COOPER,
Churchwardens,
University Church of St Mary the Virgin and Parish of St Cross with St Peter in the East,
Church Office,
High Street,
Oxford.
December 23.

Making tigers tick

From Dr M. Carruthers

Sir, Your headline, "Dust and adrenalin on the Gandhi campaign trail", (December 21), is guilty of hormonal misrepresentation!

Research I carried out with Dr Peter Taggart and Dr Walter Somerville at the Middlesex Hospital on parachutists, rock climbers, and frightened people in the dentist's chair showed clearly that adrenalin is released under conditions of fear and anxiety; it is not the intoxicating stimulant it is frequently portrayed to be in the Press.

Not only does it induce mental feelings of anxiety and dread, but physically it makes the heart beat rapidly and erratically, giving palpitations, pallor and perspiration, causing the cold sweat of fear. These sensations are most unpleasant, and certainly not addictive.

What does turn people on and, I believe, makes them "stress seekers", is what we now think of as the highly addictive "kick" or "drive" hormone, noradrenalin. Our studies on racing driving, everyday motoring, different forms of exercise, and public speaking, especially on radio and television, showed large increases in circulating noradrenalin levels in these stimulating situations. Though chemically similar to adrenalin, the less well known but more intoxicating and motivationally more important hormone, noradrenalin, has very different actions.

Tests on MPs showed that campaigning, like other competitive sports, together with cold conditions, cigarette smoking, coffee drinking, car driving, and copulation, caused surges of noradrenalin in the blood. As well as mobilising physical resources for fighting by raising blood pressure and fat levels, which can play so major a part in causing heart disease, it stimulates pleasure centres in the hypothalamic regions of the brain.

This is the common chemical pathway to pleasure which politicians tread when they are on the campaign trail. It is what makes tigers tick – in politics, industry, or any other walk of life.

Yours faithfully,
MALCOLM CARRUTHERS,
Medical Director,
Positive Health Centre,
101 Harley Street, W1.

Bear with a smile

From Mrs Thérèse Pollen

Sir, If, as I understand from your leader (December 17), the Russian bear prevented deployment of the neutron bomb in the seventies, then I find his smile disarmingly infectious.

Yours sincerely,
THERESE POLLEN,
Cray Clearing,
Harpsden Wood,
Henley-on-Thames, Oxfordshire.

Prescription of drugs

From Dr Hugh. E. G. Rees

Sir Your leading article (December 13) suggests that doctors are opposed to the latest proposals to limit the National Health drug bill and are refusing to discuss them with the Department of Health and Social Security. It is actually the British Medical Association that is refusing to talk.

At a (small) meeting of local doctors with our member of Parliament last week, there was no disagreement with the "limited list" or the "generic substitution" ideas. There is a lot wrong with the details, but the principles are sound.

In refusing to talk to the department the BMA is acting, in my view, irresponsibly and we may end up as a result with a very bad scheme.

Yours faithfully,
H. E. G. REES,
Carey's House,
4 Church Lane, Barrowden,
Oakham, Leicestershire.
December 23.

Giza sphinx

From Dr I. E. S. Edwards, FBA

Sir, In your report (November 24) on the projected transfer to Egypt of the fragment of the Giza sphinx's beard and the head of its uraeus you mentioned the precarious condition of the head and neck of the monument and you also described the measures which will be taken to give them support. Unfortunately the whole colossus is deteriorating and the reason is not far to seek.

The sphinx lies in the middle of a large rectangular pit from which stone for the inner core of the Great Pyramid was quarried. The fact that the mass of rock from which the sphinx is carved was not removed when stone was required for the construction of other buildings in its vicinity can only be ascribed to the realization by the ancient quarrymen that they had reached a seam of poor quality and that more durable rock could be obtained from quarries situated not far away.

Somewhat paradoxically, therefore, the very existence of the sphinx is likely to have been due, at least indirectly, to a cause which is now liable to lead to its destruction, namely inherent defects in the material in which it was carved.

Besides the beard and the head of the uraeus, a crown has become detached from the head; the socket into which it fitted provides the only positive evidence that it ever existed.

In view of the relative softness of the stone, it may seem strange that the sphinx should already have survived for some 4,500 years. The explanation is to be found in the simple fact that, for the greater part of its existence, it has been engulfed in sand and thus protected from wind and weather.

While it is impossible to calculate with any precision the proportion of its existence during which the sphinx was visible, what we know of the fate of other monuments in Egypt strongly suggests that its rehabilitation in pharaonic times would have been somewhat exceptional, though it may have occurred when the cult of the god Harmachis, of whom the sphinx was regarded as the embodiment, was flourishing in the neighbouring town, the Letopolite Busiris.

Although the sphinx was again restored to view in 1886 by Sir Gaston Maspero, it has only been kept regularly cleared of accumulations of sand since 1925-26. For more than 50 years it has thus been subjected to erosion from wind-blown sand and the stone has undoubtedly suffered. The Egyptian authorities are well aware that something has to be done to prevent further deterioration, but it is difficult to see how the problem can be effectively resolved.

Yours faithfully,
I. E. S. EDWARDS,
Dragon House,
Bull Ring,
Deddington,
Oxfordshire.

Trees for burning

From Mr T. Edward Bevin

Sir, It is always tragic to see our nation's trees uprooted to make way, for example, for the building of a motorway. Such a scene at present can be found at Bricket Wood, Hertfordshire, where construction work on the M25 is under way.

However, it is particularly tragic to see hundreds of trees of different species stacked in piles, sometimes rising to 20 feet high, slowly being reduced to ashes on enormous bonfires.

Surely Mr Ridley's Department of Transport advisers could suggest some alternative life for these trees. I dare say that many old people, still using open fires, would welcome a few logs.

Yours faithfully,
T. EDWARD BEVIN,
34 Watford Road,
St Albans, Hertfordshire.
December 27.

Royal peculiar

From Mr Richard Allen

Sir, Is it not a comfort to us all in the light of Her Majesty's Christmas broadcast and the recent utterances of the bishops, that our future King William can, at so early an age, run circles around the Archbishop of Canterbury?

Yours faithfully,
RICHARD ALLEN,
101A Penwith Road,
Earlsfield, SW18.
Christmas Day.

COURT AND SOCIAL

SOCIAL NEWS

Princess Anne will attend the St David's Day London Welsh celebration dinner at the Savoy Hotel on March 1.

Princess Anne, President of the British Academy of Film and Television Arts will attend the craft awards at 195 Piccadilly on March 3 and the production and performance awards at Grosvenor House on March 5.

Princess Anne, patron, Riding for the Disabled Association, will attend a luncheon at Saddlers' Hall on March 7 and will receive the ninth silver jubilee saddle from the Saddlers' Company.

Princess Anne will visit the National Heart Hospital, Westmoreland Street, W1, on March 13 and later, as Chancellor of London University, will attend a presentation ceremony at the Albert Hall.

Princess Anne, honorary liveryman, Carmen's Company, will attend a livery dinner at the Mansion House on March 12.

Princess Anne, President of the Save the Children Fund, will attend the Best of British fashion display at Guildhall on March 14.

Princess Anne, patron, Home Farm Trust, will visit the Old Quarries, Avening, Gloucestershire, on March 15.

Princess Anne will visit the Queen's Flight at RAF Benson, Oxfordshire, on March 21 and in the evening, as Master of the Farriers' Company, will attend a court meeting and a dinner at Innholders' Hall.

Princess Anne, Chancellor of London University, will attend a concert by the London University Student Orchestra, in aid of the Save the Children Fund, at Queen Elizabeth Hall on March 4.

Marriages

Mr D.F. Gibbs and Miss P.C.M. Wheare

The marriage took place yesterday in the Chapel of Exeter College, Oxford, between Mr David Gibbs, son of the late Mr and Mrs G.F. Gibbs, of Seaford, Sussex, and Miss Philippa Wheare, daughter of the late Sir Kenneth Wheare and of Lady Wheare, of Oxford. The Rev A. Baxter officiated.

The bride, who was given in marriage by her brother, Mr Henry Wheare, wore a gown of white silk. She was attended by Charlotte Reid and Mr Sandy Ross was best man.

A reception was held in The Hall, Exeter College, and the honeymoon will be spent in Morocco.

Mr S.W. Brooke and Ms M.F. Wiggins

The marriage took place in Bangkok on Friday December 28, between Mr Simon Brooke, of Sydney, Australia, and Ms Marlene Wiggins, of Bo'ness, Scotland.

Forthcoming marriage

Mr B. W. Hawkes and Miss C. Arch-Hunt

The engagement is announced between Brian William, youngest son of Mr and Mrs W. E. Hawkes, of Holme-next-Sea, Norfolk, and Christina, youngest daughter of Mr and Mrs P. W. Hunt, of Sheringham, Norfolk.

Latest wills

Cancer fund-raiser leaves £169,401

Mrs Patricia Victoria Seed, MBE, of Garstang, Lancashire, who since she contracted cancer in 1977 raised more than £3 million for cancer research into the disease, left estate valued at £169,401 net. Among other bequests she left the profits from her books *One day at a Time* and *Another Day* to the Pat Seed Appeal Fund, Christie Hospital, Manchester. Her husband, Mr Geoffrey Seed, a North-west Water Authority official, who died after the Abbeystead pumping station explosion, left estate valued at between £25,000 and £40,000 net.

Sir Harold C Emmerson, of Littlebourne, Canterbury, Kent, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Labour, 1956-59, who in 1961 was one of three members of the security committee that carried out the Portland spy inquiry, left estate valued at £12,003 net.

Other estates include (net, before tax paid):

Avery, Mr John Alfred, of Torquay, Devon £402,930
Ernest, Mrs Ida, of Bournemouth, Dorset £424,471
Jones, Mr William Rees Lloyd, of Lampeter, Dyfed £539,471
Lezard, Mrs Mary Blanche, of St John's Wood, London £475,450
Rimer, Mrs Mary Alice, of Gerrards Cross, Buckinghamshire £524,168
Stepien, Mr Jan, of Paddington, London £427,645

Birthdays

TODAY: June Marchioness of Aberdeen and Temair, 71; Sir Richard Beaumont, 72; Mr John Connell, 60; Mr Bernard Cribbins, 56; General Sir Robert Ford, 61; Mr H Andrew Freeth, 72; Professor L C B Gower, 71; Mr S M Hornby, 50; Mr Gilbert Hunt, 70; Mr G H Newson, QC, 75; Dr Magnus Pyke, 76; Sir Keith Sharp, 58; Mr Harvey Smith, 46; Sir Edward Stratten Williams, 63; Mr Jon Voight, 46.

TOMORROW: Mr David Bedford, 35; Professor Roy Calne, 54; Mr Anthony Cripps, QC, 71; General Sir David Fraser, 64; Sir Reginald Groom, 78; Lord Harvington, 77; Lord Howick of Glendale, 47; Professor J T Houghton, 53; Air Chief Marshal Sir Edmund Hudleston, 76; Professor Rosalinde Hurley, 55; Sir John Prideaux, 73; Sir Albert Robinson, 69; Lord Taylor, 74; Lord Terrington, 69; Sir Eric Weiss, 76; Sir David Willcocks, 65; Mr Clifford Williams, 58.

Services tomorrow: First Sunday after Christmas

ST PAUL'S CATHEDRAL: HC 8; M 10.30, Jub and T D (Stanford in B flat), Rev K Ward, F D Maurice; HC 11.30, Missa Bella amitrit altera (Lassus), Int, Alma Redemptoris (Lassus); E 3.15, Mag and Nunc dimittus, Wood in F; A. Quem vidistis (Poulenc), Rev G Routledge.

WESTMINSTER ABBEY: HM 8; M 10.30, Stanford in B flat, Thou O God art praised in Sion (Boyle), Rev R P Reiss; HC 11.40; E 3, Noble in B minor, The Lord is my Shepherd (Stanford), Rev S C Charles; organ recital 5.55; ES 6.30, The Dean (service sung by the Chester St Cecilia Singers).

CHAPEL ROYAL: St James's: HC 8.30; MP 11.15, A Wassail Carol (Popplewell) prebendary W D Kennedy-Bell.

THE QUEEN'S CHAPEL OF THE SAVOY (public welcomed): M 11.15, TD (MacPherson in E), A. All sons of Adam (Carol), Rev L Harman; HC 12.30.

GUARDS CHAPEL, Wellington Barracks: M 11, Rev J C D Cook; HC 12.

TOWER OF LONDON (public welcomed): HC 11 (in St John's Chapel).

TEMPLE CHURCH, Fleet Street (public welcomed): HC 8.30; MP 11.15, T D Laudamus (MacPherson in E) Jub Deo (MacPherson in E); A Childing of a Maiden bright (arr. A C D), The Master; Organ voluntary.

ST CLEMENT DANES (RAF Church) (public welcomed): HC 8.30; M11, TD (Ireland in F), Jub S 17r (Gibbons), A and which eight days (Bach), The Resident Chaplain; HC 12.15.

CHAPEL ROYAL, Hampton Court Palace, HC 8.30; M, 11, Boyce in C, A Gloria in excelsis Deo (Weelkes), Rev J Bleane. E and carols 3.30, Int. The shepherds farewell (Berlioz), A. What cheer (Walton) A. Merry Christmas (arr. Warrell).

ST CYPRIAN, Clarence Gate, Glentworth Street, NW1: LM 8; M, 10.30; HM, 11, Rev P R Harding.

ST GEORGE'S, Hanover Square: HC 8.30; Sung Eucharist, 11, Batten Short Service, Christ was born on Christmas Day (Trad), The Rector.

ST MARGARET'S, Westminster: HC 8.15; M, 11: Canon Beeson; HC 12.15.

ST MARTIN-IN-THE-FIELDS: HC, 8; Family Communion, 9.45, Rev C Hedley; MS, 11.30, N Ingram-Smith; ES, 6.30, Rev C Hedley.

ST MARY ABBOTS, KENSINGTON: HC 8 and 12.30; Sung Eucharist, 9.30; M 11.15; E 6.30.

ST MARY'S, Bourne Street: LM 8, 9.45, 7; HM, 11: Missa Puisque j'ai perdu (Lassus); In the bleak midwinter (Darke), There is no Rose (Anon) Fr T Bugby; E and Solemn Benediction 6.15.

ST MARYLEBONE PARISH CHURCH: HC 8 and 11, Rev C K Hamel Cooke; Mass (Merbecke) 6.30, Rev C K Hamel Cooke.

ST MICHAEL'S, Chester Square: HC, 8.15; M 11, Rev J A Mumford; HC 6.30, Rev J A Mumford.

ST PAUL'S, Wilton Place, Knightsbridge: HC 8 and 9; Solemn Eucharist 11, Missa Brevis (Britten), A. Virgin Most Pure (arr J Rutter), Mater ora filium (Oxley), Rev R G Russell.

ST PAUL'S, Robert Adam Street: 11, Donald Shell; 6.30, Canon Keith de Berry.

ST SIMON ZELOTES, Chelsea: HC 8; MP 11; EP 6.30; Rev O R Clarke.

ST STEPHEN'S, Gloucester Road: LM 8, 9; HM, Mass for four voices (Byrd), Rev Dr P Butler; Solemn E and Benediction 6, Prebendary H Moore.

ST VEDAST, Foster Lane: SM 11 (Merbecke), Canon ffrench-Beytagh.

ST COLUMBA'S (Church of Scotland) Pont Street: 11 and 6.30, the Very Rev Dr J Fraser McLuskey.

CROWN COURT CHURCH (Church of Scotland) Russell Street, Covent Garden: 11.15, Rev M Duff.

THE ORATORY, SW7: LM 7, 8, 9, 10; HM 11; Mass Aeterna Christi munera (Palestrina), Quem vidistis (Victoria); LM 12.30; 4.30, 7; Vespers 3.30, Hodie Christus natus est (Handel).

ST ANSELM AND CECILIA, Kingsway: Solemn Latin Mass 11; ...

Donald Norwood

Jubilee of a Christian challenge

It is easy to sneer at synods and to despair of democracy until you remember the Synod of Barmen in May of 1934.

Hitler had just come to power and had decided that in state and in church it was simpler and more effective if one or two people made all the decisions and the rest followed meekly.

But it was a synod of Protestant Christians, lay and clerical, Lutheran and Reformed and United, that voiced the first official opposition to the new regime.

They recalled the text which contrasts the rulers of this world who lord it over their subjects and make them feel the weight of their authority, with the model of the One who is among them as One who serves.

The former way was not for them, said Jesus. Whoever would be great must be your servant. They took this as a clear challenge to the Führer and the leadership principle and the autocracy of the Reichbishop, who was Hitler's friend.

The challenge was summed up in the opening clause of the Barmen Declaration of Faith: "Jesus Christ, as He is testified to us in Holy Scripture, is the one Word of God, which we are to hear, which we are to trust and obey in life and in death". The full text appeared in *The Times* of June 4, 1934.

Fifty years later, Christians in East and West Germany have celebrated the jubilee of the Barmen Declaration. For Christians throughout the world it is a more significant anniversary than the D-Day landings.

Indeed, it is possible to argue that had we given more support to the Confessing Church and those in Germany who were plotting to overthrow Hitler instead of demanding the military defeat of the entire German nation, the war itself might have drastically foreshortened.

What is known, and can be agreed, is that the declaration about trusting Jesus Christ "in life and in death" was not empty rhetoric. People like Martin Niemöller suffered long imprisonment; others, like Dietrich Bonhoeffer, death because they took their stand on the Barmen Declaration.

Looked at with the detachment of post-war Christians, Barmen still bombards us with questions. Supposing the modern state were desperately anxious to win the approval of the church for all its policies and accordingly promoted its own highly nationalistic version of the Christian faith, would we recognize a heresy when we saw it?

Or is it indeed no longer fashionable to talk of heresy or distortions of the truth? And what price should we be prepared to pay for a united church, or at least a united Protestant church. Hitler wanted unity but did he want unity in Christ?

And if today Christians are tempted to feel that now is not the time to go on wrangling over church constitutions and tiresome questions about whether the church should be governed by bishops or synods or both; the crisis that prompted the Barmen Declaration is not yet over.

Clause four of Barmen stated: "The various offices of the church establish no rule of one over the other but the exercise of the service entrusted and commanded to the whole congregation".

Related to the opening clause this means that the Christian congregation can never yield their share of responsibility for any church decision. They too must see that Christ, and He alone, rules in the church.

And Christ himself does still rule His church. In the view of Karl Barth, who was largely responsible for formulating the Barmen Declaration, the men of Barmen were not great heroes who stood firm where others wavered.

They, too, dithered and often lacked the courage of their conviction. They, too, must apologize that even in their declaration they had not made explicit their Christian solidarity with the Jews.

But Barmen, said Barth, was a witness that in the hour of confusion when all other helpers failed, the One Word of God attested in the Bible of the Old and the New Testaments did still speak to the church, to be heard, trusted and obeyed. On that, the Synod at Barmen was unanimous. That too was part of the miracle of God's grace.

The Rev Dr Donald W Norwood is Minister of the United Reformed Church, Summertown, Oxford.

University news

London

Grants to Queen Mary College

Science and Engineering Research Council: £77,224 to Professor G J Hancock, Dr L Bernstein and Dr H P Horton for research into the boundary layer characteristics on an aerofoil in a periodic flow; £51,119 to Dr A Thorpe for localization, purification and structural studies on opioid-like and other novel neuropeptides from the blowfly, Calliphora Vomitoria; £82,988 to Dr L A Wood, Mr S R Rigden and Mr N W M John for an investigation at full-scale into the behaviour of earth retaining walls and associated structures.
Efamol: £83,430 to Professor R Bonnett for design, synthesis and evaluation of porphyrin compounds.
Ministry of Defence: £60,841 to Professor D C Leslie for large eddy simulation of a turbulent near wake.

Wales

The university will be conferring eight honorary degrees at a ceremony to be held at the University College of North Wales, Bangor on July 6, 1985, to mark the centenary of the college. Those to be honoured are:

MA: Mr John Robert Williams for his contribution to journalism and broadcasting in Wales.

MSc: Mr Robert Ian James Tully for services to the University College of North Wales, Bangor as science librarian.

LLD: Mr Franklin Cary Salisbury for the contribution he has made to the support of cancer research in universities; Lord Weinstock, in recognition of his contribution to the public and industrial life of Britain.

DSc: Professor Emeritus Morgan Wynn Humphrey Davies, in recognition of his academic career in electrical engineering and his services to the University College of North Wales; Mr George Dennis Holmes for his contribution to British forestry.

DLitt: Dr Rachael Bromwich for her contributions to the study of Celtic literature, in particular Welsh literature; Professor Emeritus Alun Llywelyn-Williams, in recognition of his contributions to the cultural and educational life of Wales.

Southampton

A congregation will be held on January 17, 1985, to confer the honorary degree of doctor of laws on Earl Jellicoe, on the occasion of his installation as chancellor of the university.

Appointments

Personal chairs have been conferred on:

Dr W. H. W. Inman, director of the drug surveillance research unit, who will take the title professor of pharmacoepidemiology.

Dr B. A. Sparkes, reader in classics, who will take the title of professor of classics and classical archaeology.

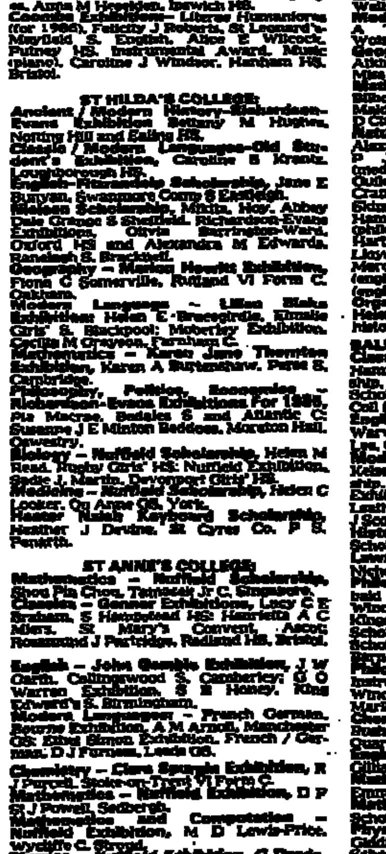
Readerships

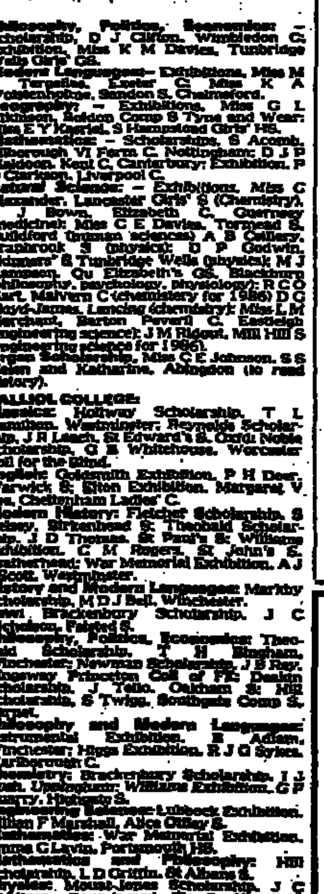
Dr M J Goodyer (experimental aerodynamics); Dr S T Holgate (medicine); Dr D N Payne (electronics); Dr D Fletcher (chemistry); Dr F Rhodes (pure mathematics).

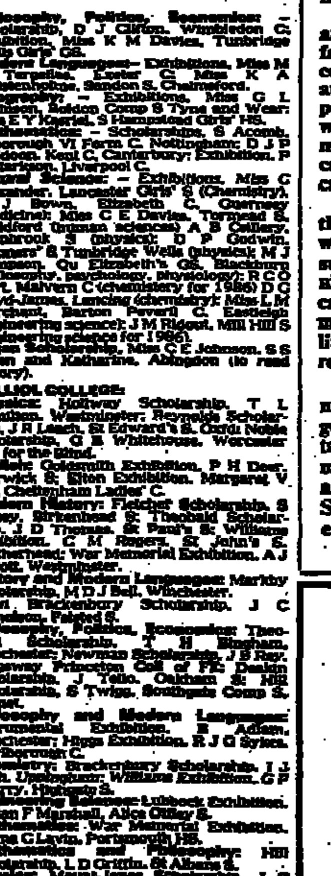
Emeritus professorships have been conferred on Professor E. W. Lee, professor of physics, and Professor E. J. Richards, research professor in the institute of sound and vibration research.

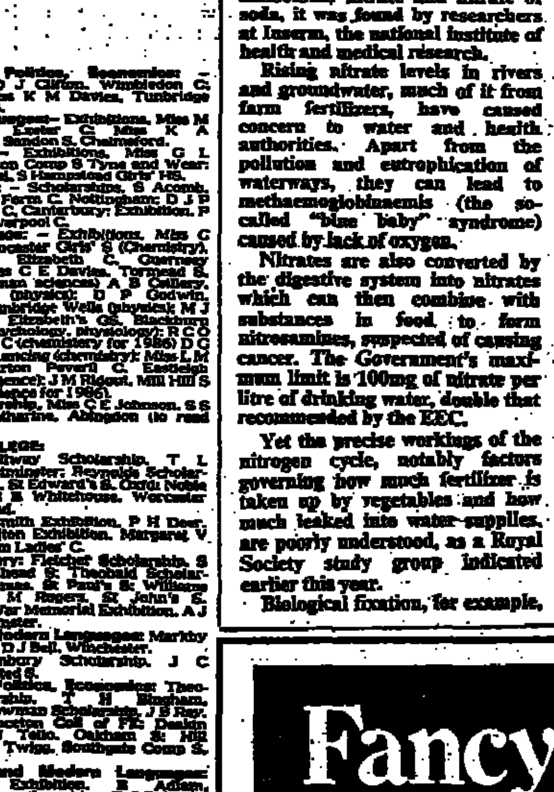
Grants

Wessex Medical Trust: £68,767 to Dr S T Holgate to study pharmacokinetics of inhaled sodium cromoglycate in man.
Science and Engineering Research Council: £436,174 to Professor W A Gambling and Dr D Payne to research optical fibre communications; £288,336 to Dr A Brunnschweiler for design and test centre for microelectronic circuits; £124,900 to Dr D C Hanna and Dr A I Ferguson to study non-linear optical processes in optical fibre devices; £708,159 to Professor Gambling and Dr Payne to research advanced fibre measurements, optical fibre sensors, advanced fibre wave guide devices and optically addressable switches; £80,000 to Mr M R Cooper to study trench reinstatements in road maintenance.
Department of the Environment: £83,280 to Mr C G Rice to study tonal corrections.
Ministry of Defence: £179,604 to Dr S A L Glegg for an investigation of broadband propeller noise.









The surgeon at work: In the operating theatre and with a young outpatient.

Pioneer to retire

Mr Michael Tempest, the plastic surgeon who pioneered work on the treatment of burns and severe facial deformities in the 1950s and 1960s, retires next week.

For the past 30 years he has been attached to the Welsh regional centre for plastic surgery, at the St Lawrence Hospital, Chepstow, Gwent, where he is senior consultant.

In 1955 he devised a system using dyes to determine whether damaged skin was fed by an active blood supply and was therefore still alive.

For six years he has been editor of the *British Journal of Plastic Surgeons*, and he is president of the British Association of Plastic Surgeons.

Wilkes appeal

Viscount Tonypandy, the former Speaker of the Commons, has joined an appeal committee seeking £50,000 for a monument to John Wilkes, the eighteenth century MP and champion of liberty.

Latest appointments

Mr Norman Adsetts to be Chairman of the Governing Council of the Association for the Conservation of Energy.

Church news

Church in Wales

The Rev. R J Dennis, Vicar of St Andrew with St Philip, Llswerry, to be Vicar of Tredunnoc with Llantrisant and Llanhennog, diocese of Monmouth.

Science report

Growing alarm over farm nitrate levels

By David Nicholson-Lord

Lettuces grown by using organic nitrogen fertilizer maintained their weight, yield and protein content but contained fewer potentially harmful nitrate residues than those fertilized with mineral nitrogen, according to tests at a French medical research institute.

Fertilizing butterhead lettuces with caster oil seed cake produced only between a third and a half of the concentrations that resulted when the same amount of nitrogen was fed to the plants in the form of ammonium nitrate and nitrate of soda, it was found by researchers at Inserm, the national institute of health and medical research.

Rising nitrate levels in rivers and groundwater, much of it from farm fertilizers, have caused concern to water and health authorities. Apart from the pollution and eutrophication of waterways, they can lead to methaemoglobinaemia (the so-called "blue baby" syndrome) caused by lack of oxygen.

Nitrates are also converted by the digestive system into nitrates which can then combine with substances in food to form nitrosamines, suspected of causing cancer. The Government's maximum limit is 100mg of nitrate per litre of drinking water, double that recommended by the EEC.

Yet the precise workings of the nitrogen cycle, notably factors governing how much fertilizer is taken up by vegetables and how much leaked into water-supplies, are poorly understood, as a Royal Society study group indicated earlier this year.

Biological fixation, for example, using leguminous plants such as clover or beans, is thought to be the "safest" way of adding nitrogen to soil but has increasingly taken a poor second place to large-scale dressings of mineral fertilizer.

Two of these, ammonium nitrate and nitrate of soda were compared with castor oil seed cake on six experimental plots at the French institute in south-west France. Each fertilizer was applied at rates of 120 and 200kg a hectare. Lettuces on the seventh plot were left unfertilized.

The yields of all the fertilized plots were broadly similar, as was protein and dry matter content, the range of minerals found, and the proportion of "well-rounded" lettuces at harvest.

The most striking differences, however, came in the nitrate content of the plants, according to the *Soil Association Quarterly Review*. Levels of nitrate in the unfertilized plants were 159 parts per million (ppm). In the plants fertilized organically they were 319 and 271ppm respectively for the low and high application rates.

But the ammonium nitrate fertilizer produced 534 and 802ppm of nitrate while the nitrate of soda resulted in 698 and 991ppm respectively, for low and high applications.

The researchers conclude that the finding of high yields from organic fertilizers and lower tissue concentrations of unwanted compounds is in agreement with previous research data.

OBITUARY

MR DOUGLAS NICHOLSON

Former chairman of Vaux Breweries

Mr Douglas Nicholson, formerly chairman of Vaux Breweries and a well-known figure in sporting circles, died on December 28 at the age of 79.

Frank Douglas Nicholson, the only son of Sir Frank Nicholson CBE was born on July 30, 1905 and educated at Harrow and Clare College, Cambridge. He served in the Scottish Horse and The Royal Artillery in the Second World War serving mainly in the Middle East. He organized the Anglo-American supply mission to Saudi Arabia in 1944.

He became a director of Vaux Breweries in 1928 and succeeded his father as chairman in 1952 in which position he remained until his retirement in 1976. Under his guidance Vaux grew to be the second largest regional brewery company in the United Kingdom. He sat for many years on the council of the brewers' society becoming chairman in 1970-71. He was then elected a vice-president.

He played a prominent part in north-eastern affairs for many years holding a number of important appointments including that of Deputy Lieutenant, president of the Durham County Association of Boys' Clubs, chairman of the Durham Police Authority, member of the Peterlee Development Corporation, member of the board of the River Wear Commissioners (now the Port of Sunderland Authority), and member of the Durham Rural District Council. He was High Sheriff of the county in 1949. He contested the seat of Spennymoor for the Conservative Party in the 1945 parliamentary election.

He was a keen supporter of sport and inaugurated the Vaux Northern Sportsman of the Year awards and the Vaux School of Sport. He established the richest flat race handicap in Europe, at the time, with his company's sponsorship of the Vaux Gold Tankard race at Redcar which commenced in 1963 with the aim of attracting top-class horses to the north.

He was also a sportsman in his own right being, particularly, an outstanding horseman. He competed in the Badminton Horse Trials on more than five occasions and he was one of the pioneers of the sport of 3-day event horse driving in this country having driven a coach and four all his life.

He was a member of the British team which won a bronze medal at the 1971 European Driving Trials and of the team which won a gold medal in the 1972 World Driving Trials at Munster.

He was a man of remarkable energy and determination and much of this was directed towards promoting the north-east of England of which he was particularly proud. A much-respected man he will be remembered for his individual and, often, autocratic approach which he combined with considerable foresight and charm.

He is survived by his wife, Pauline, daughter of Sir Thomas Lawson Tancred, Bt, whom he married in 1937; and his five sons.

THE RT REV J. M. KEY

The Rt Rev John Maurice Key, who was Bishop of Truro from 1959 to 1973, and before that had been Bishop Suffragan of Sherborne from 1947 to 1959, died on December 21 at the age of 79.

He was born on June 4, 1905, the son of Prebendary Frederick John Key and his wife, Winifred Mary, and educated at Rossall School and Pembroke College, Cambridge. He then went to Wescott House in Cambridge and, after ordination, became an assistant curate at St Mary's Portsea.

He then became successively Vicar of Aylesbare, Exeter, Rector of Highweek with St Mary's, Newton Abbott, and Rector of Stoke Damerel with St Bartholomew's and St Luke's, Devenport. He was also Rural Dean of the Three Towns (Plymouth) from 1944 to 1947.

He went to Sherborne as Bishop Suffragan in 1947, and to Truro as Bishop in 1959. After his retirement he served as an assistant Bishop in the diocese of Exeter.

He married in 1935 Agnes Joan Dence, who survives him. They had three sons, one of whom Robert Key, is Conservative MP for Salisbury, and a daughter.

CAPTAIN J. A. REEVES, GC

Captain James Arthur Reeves GC, who died on December 26 at the age of 73, was born in Darwen, Lancashire, on June 15 1911 and went to sea in the Merchant Navy in 1929 as an indentured apprentice.

In September 1942 he was Chief Officer of the tanker Atheltemplar which was torpedoed while sailing to North Russia in Convoy PQ18 with a cargo of fuel oil. As the ship was being abandoned two men, one badly injured and the other overcome by oil fumes, were seen floating in oily water in the flooded engine-room.

Reeves went down into the engine-room to secure lines to the men and repeated his descent when one of them slipped back into the water. Both men were hauled to safety.

For this action Reeves was awarded the Albert Medal, which was translated to the George Cross in 1971. After the war he was in command of several Athel Line vessels until his retirement to Darwen in 1962.

SIR THOMAS RAPP

Sir Thomas Rapp, KBE, CMG, MC, who died on December 22 in his 92nd year, was Head of the British Middle East Office in Cairo from 1950 to 1953. Previously he had been Ambassador to Mexico.

The son of T. W. Rapp, of Saltburn on Sea, he was born in 1893 and was educated at Coatham School and Sidney Sussex College, Cambridge. He saw service in the Duke of Wellington's Regiment reaching the rank of major and winning a Military Cross in 1916.

At Cambridge he was an Arabic scholar and in the 1920s and 1930s he was to have much experience of the Middle East.

In 1939-41 he was Consul-General at Zagreb and was taken prisoner by the Germans.

In 1949 he was suddenly called in to lead the British delegation to a conference on short-wave radio in Mexico City (he was at the time ambassador there). He acquired such an excellent grasp of the complicated negotiations that the Post Office and the BBC insisted on his remaining with the delegation even when the conference had further meetings in Florence and Rapallo.

He married in 1922 Dorothy, daughter of John Clarke. They had two daughters one of whom is deceased.

PROFESSOR A. G. SMITH

Professor Austin Geoffrey Smith, who died on December 5 at the age of 66 was Hives Professor of Thermodynamics at Nottingham University from 1960 to 1982. He was a noted authority on various aspects of gas turbine development.

He was educated at Gillingham County School for Boys and Imperial College, London, from where in 1940 he went as a research engineer to the Blackburn Aircraft Corporation. From 1942 until the end of the war he was an engineer researching on engine development at Power Jets Ltd, the company which had been formed by Frank Whittle (now Sir Frank Whittle) to carry his theories on gas turbine propulsion to fruition, in the first flight by a British jet aircraft, the Gloster Whittle in 1941.

From 1946 to 1952 he was at the National Gas Turbine Establishment and from 1952 to 1957 Reader in Gas Turbines at Imperial College London, before going to the Chair of Aircraft Propulsion at the College of Aeronautics, in 1957.

After three years he went to Nottingham where in addition to occupying the Hives Chair he was also head of the Department of Mechanical Engineering. He was the author of many papers on thermodynamics, heat transfer and aerodynamics.

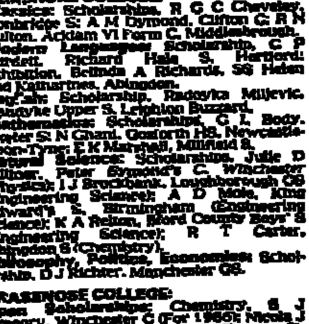
Mr Robert Giffen Dundas, CBE, formerly of the Diplomatic Service, died on December 22 at the age of 75. He was Counsellor and Consul-General, Benghazi from 1963 to 1966 and Consul-General, Amsterdam from 1966 to 1969.

Lady Durnford-Slater, widow of Admiral Sir Robin Durnford-Slater, KCB, died on December 23 at the age of 75. She was Mary Alice (Sally) Hilleary, daughter of Colonel E H Gregson, CMG, CIE.

Mr Leonard Cecil Goss, joint chief executive, Council of Christians and Jews, and general secretary from 1981, died on December 26 at the age of 59.

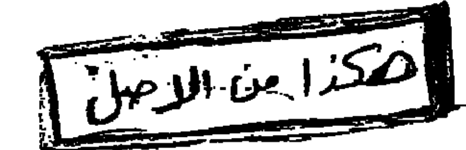
Oxford University College awards

The following awards have been made by Oxford Colleges:



Balliol Exhibitions — Mathematics, Shirley E Harris, Edgbaston HS.
Bousfield Exhibitions — Modern Languages, Anna M Hosside, Ipswich HS.
Coombe Exhibitions — Literae Humaniores (for 1986), Felicity J Roberts, St Leonard's-Mayfield S. English, Alice E Wilcock, Putney HS. Instrumental Award, Music (piano), Caroline J Windsor, Hanham HS, Bristol.

Philosophy, Politics, Economics — Scholarship, D J Clifton, Wimbledon C; Exhibition, Miss K M Davies, Tunbridge Wells Girls GS.
Modern Languages — Exhibitions, Miss M A Turpelles, Exeter C; Miss K A Wolstenholme, Sandon S, Chelmsford.
Geography — Exhibitions, Miss G L Atkinson, Boldon Comp S Tyne and Wear; Miss E Y Kasriel, S Hampstead Girls' HS.



THE TIMES Saturday

29 DECEMBER 1984-4 JANUARY 1985 A WEEKLY GUIDE TO LEISURE, ENTERTAINMENT AND THE ARTS

Jane MacQuitty puts the best of champagne to the test with a view to toasting in the new year in style

Uncorking a vintage mystery



If you want to indulge yourself, the new year is as good a time as any – and probably better than most. So the imminent arrival of 1985 seemed a reasonable excuse for a prestige champagne tasting, which must rank as one of the most sybaritic tasting exercises ever.

Is Dom Pérignon really worth the money? Is Roederer's Cristal anything more than a gilded bottle? Six of us decided to find out – and our results are just in time for Monday night.

Prestige champagnes, incidentally, are the *crème de la crème*, of the champagne world, produced in a different way from ordinary vintage and non-vintage bubbly. Not only are most of them made almost entirely from grapes from the finest years and best vineyards; they are also made exclusively from the juice of the first, soft, gentle *vin de cuvée* pressing, whereas the juice from the second and third pressings is consigned to less noble champagnes.

After the first fermentation wines destined for the prestige *cuvées* are again rigorously and ruthlessly selected so that once more only the finest go forward to the final prestige *cuvée* or blend. The de luxe champagnes are then put into one of those fancy prestige bottles which because of their awkward shape have to be dealt with by hand. It is an expensive business – though not perhaps as expensive as the champagne houses would have us believe.

Most of the wines we examined in our tasting were *cuvées de prestige* from the *grandes marques* houses, and they included two newcomers (Pol Roger's Sir Winston Churchill and Piper Heidsieck's Champagne Rare). I threw in Moët et Chandon's non-prestige straight Dry Imperial vintage fizz to keep us all on our toes. But I avoided the temptation to include others such as Taittinger's Collection and Krug's Clos du Mesnil which come from what appears to be a new and even more expensive "super prestige" category of champagnes that are unobtainable for less than about £30. Most of our *cuvées de prestige* are priced at about £22.

Joining me (JMQ) in this extravagant event were Michael Crozier (MC), editor of *Saturday*; Michael Broadbent (MB), head of Christie's Wine Department; Richard Freeman (RF), from The Champagne House, the specialist champagne merchants; Serena Sutcliffe (SS), wine consultant and author; and Don Hewitson (DH), from the award-winning Cork & Bottle chain of wine bars.

SUPERSTARS

Cuvée Grand Siècle, Laurent Perrier
Harrods, London SW1, £24.75; Corney & Barrow, 12 Helmet Row, London EC1, £22.98; 4 Vintners, 7 Kingsland Road, London E2, £21.50; Hampstead Vintners, 111 West Heath Road, London NW3, £23.75.
Everyone loved this superb champagne with its "lemony-gold colour and wonderfully elegant toasty character" (JMQ). SS enjoyed its "really classy nose", MB found it reminiscent of "fresh walnuts," and DH noted with satisfaction that it was "full of champagne character and worth the money." This is the champagne served to passengers on British Airways Concorde flights to celebrate the transition from Mach 1 to Mach 2. Flying on this plane would obviously be worthwhile just for the fizz.

1976 Dom Pérignon, Moët et Chandon
Oddbins, £22.60; Arthur Rackham £21.99
From Sydney to Saskatchewan, DP is rated liquid gold dust and our tasting proved that it is worth every ounce of its Fort Knox reputation. SS felt she could drink this "toasty welcoming champagne" for ever. DH enjoyed its "rich, full-bodied flavour with plenty of life" and JMQ found it "soft and biscuity."

1979 Cristal, Louis Roederer
Bottoms Up, £22.99; Oddbins, £23
By appointment to Tsar Alexander III, and our panel could only endorse his good taste: "superb flowery nose, classic structure . . . considerable depth . . . worth every penny" (DH); "flowery, elegant, just my style" (SS) and "rich, warm, fragrant – I could drink a lot of this" (JMQ).

HIGHLY RECOMMENDED

1979 René Lalou, G. H. Mumm
Gough Bros, £19.99; Selfridges £21
This came as something of a surprise, for Mumm's Monsieur Lalou is not the first *cuvée de prestige* that springs to mind. Nevertheless MB found it "dry, frothy and delicate" while JMQ commented: "not my style but light, fragrant and flowery all the same"; DH described it as "soft, flowery and attractive".

1979 La Grande Dame, Veuve Clicquot-Ponsardin
Fortnum & Mason, Piccadilly, London W1, £23; Weavers of Nottingham, £21
Worthy of the merry widow, with characteristics that included a "rich walnut nose" (MB) and "peppery palate" (JMQ), it added up to a "big rewarding wine" (DH) that SS thought would have "super potential".

1975 Sir Winston Churchill, Pol Roger
Magnums only from Malmaison Wine Club, 28 Midland Road, London NW1, £50; Fortnum & Mason, £54.50
Sir Winston Churchill's "positive rich Pinot Noir nose and flavour" went down well with MB, and RF admired the "harmonious well-made, well-rounded Pinot blend". SS also picked up the "chunky, black grapes character".

RECOMMENDED

1976 Comtes de Champagne, Taittinger
André Simon, £21.85; Tanners of Shrewsbury, £21.88
JMQ loved the Comte's "elegant ripe flowery fizz" as did MB, who commented on the "fragrant, stylish, fresh lingering flavour".

Krug Grande Cuvée
Peter Dominic, £20.99; Cullens, £22.56
The Krug family run one of the few champagne houses which continue to ferment in oak and MC picked up a "subtle nutty taste" while DH described it as a "another classic style – full, yeasty and flavoursome".

1978 Dry Imperial, Moët and Chandon
Oddbins, £10.95; Peter Dominic, £11.59
Not a prestige *cuvée* at all, merely Moët's straight vintage blend put in to see if anyone would spot it and most tasters did: DH found it "flowery, smooth but lacking complexity", MC "undistinctive", JMQ "disappointing" and SS "reticent and slight".

BORDERLINE

1978 Belle Epoque, Perrier-Jouët
Bottoms Up, £19.99; The Vintage House, 42 Old Compton Street, London W1, £20.57
Proof that you need more than just a pretty bottle. MC found this "too full-bodied", RF "uninspiring" and JMQ "aggressive".

1979 Cuvée Champagne Charlie, Charles Heidsieck
André Simon, £20.60; Harrods £22.25
The Americans dubbed this firm's founder "Champagne Charlie". MC found this "delicate and refined", MB "lean, crisp and flavoury" and SS "elegant but a bit sharp".

1976 Dom Ruinart, Blanc de Blancs
Oddbins, £11.65; Harrods, £15.25
JMQ much enjoyed the Dom's "flowery, elegant, citrus-like character" but everyone else found it just a "straightforward, fruity run-of-the-mill champagne" (SS).

1975 Bollinger RD
Oddbins, £19.20; Harrods, £23.60
RD stands for "recently disgorged", meaning that it has spent longer maturing on its yeasty sediment than the others. This should give it an extra dimension. But no one rated this one very highly except MC, who called it a "sophisticated, full-bodied wine" and MB who praised its "rich, meaty style".

1975 Cuvée William Deutz, Deutz
Malmaison Wine Club, 28 Midland Road, London NW1, £14.50; The Champagne House, 15 Dawson Place, London W2, £14.50
JMQ picked up an "odd over-ripe, pineapple-type fruit" character on Monsieur William as did DH, who commented on its "unusual nose with strange fruit", and SS who found it "lemony . . . a real oddball".

NOT WORTH THE MONEY

1976 Diamant Bleu, Heidsieck Dry Monopole
Rackhams of Birmingham, £20; Kendal Milne of Manchester, £20
Cuvée du Cent Cinquantenaire, Joseph Perrier
Champagne & Caviar, London EC3, £18.50, Campden Vintners, Chipping Camden, £21.45
1976 Champagne Rare, Piper Heidsieck
Selfridges, £28; Harrods £32
Noble Cuvée, London
Mayor Sworder, London SE1, £18.82;
Stones of Belgravia, London SW1, £19.99

THE RESULTS

On the plus side, this was a tasting that proved that the best sellers at least are worth the money and that anyone indulging in one of our three superstars will be getting a very fine fizz indeed.

The panel was asked to keep value for money in mind when assessing the wines and most tasters concluded that, apart from the winning wines, there was not enough class, breeding and refinement present to warrant such steep prices. Serena Sutcliffe and Don Hewitson both felt that at the moment there is much better value to be found in the vintage champagne category and Richard Freeman, our most censorious critic, said that with few exceptions these champagnes represented "the vulgar section of the champagne market" – the sort that is knocked back without thought in night clubs.

For my part, I was pleased, as was DH, that the top eight champagnes did on the whole live up to their reputation, showing uncompromising flavour, style and weight. But it is hard to justify the expense of those prestige champagnes that were not even up to the standard of Moët's Dry Imperial, which we used as our benchmark: any champagne below this is unlikely to impress.

However, champagne, perhaps more than any other wine, is very much a matter of personal taste, so take your pick from *The Times's* top *cuvées de prestige*. Happy New Year!

IN THE PINK

Pink champagne has a rather more decadent and frivolous image than the prestige *cuvées*.

Creating a rosé champagne is, however, a somewhat prosaic affair. These days, most champagne houses simply take a small amount of the champagne regions' still red wine (made from the Pinot Noir grape) and blend it in with the white until the requisite rosé blush is obtained. The traditional method, where the grape skins were left in contact with the juice so that just a trace of their red colour ran into the wine, has now almost died out and I know of only a couple of firms who still continue to use this tricky, time-consuming process.

My favourite non vintage pink is Charbaut Rosé (still made, incidentally, by the traditional method) which has a pretty colour and wonderful bouquet and taste. (The Champagne House, 15 Dawson Place, London W2, £7.98). Of the vintage rosés my favourite is Pol Roger's 1975 with its fine flowery bouquet and full fruity taste. (The Champagne House £11.90, Selfridges £12.65).

Noble line in bottles

It is all Dom Pérignon's fault of course. For without the inspiration of this blind Benedictine monk, Moët et Chandon might never have introduced the first *cuvée de prestige* champagne, which bears his name. Without DP, as socialites and swells irreverently refer to this most aristocratic of tipples, the other *grandes marques* houses would probably not have produced their own deluxe versions.

As with all the best traditions, the story of champagne is a blend of fact and legend. Dom Pérignon is universally credited with and deservedly famous for the basic process of making champagne.

Whether or not he actually did discover it is in fact highly debatable. But that hardly matters: what is beyond doubt is that he was the first man to make a *cuvée* or blend of wines, just as the Champenois do today, while at Hautevillers Abbey, near Epernay, in the 17th century. So it is fitting that the first prestige champagne to be launched on the market should have been called after him.



Corking a bottle

Moët et Chandon began producing Dom Pérignon in 1921, but only for consumption by family and friends. Another seven years went by before it was launched commercially. But it did not take long for other firms to realize that *crème de la crème* champagnes would prove a lucrative business as well as considerably enhancing the reputation of their existing vintage and non vintage *cuvées*.

With limited supplies and an apparently ever-increasing demand, the prestige *cuvées* were often available only on allocation and no one complained when several firms upped their prestige prices to exactly double those of their ordinary vintage champagnes.

The method of producing *cuvée de prestige* champagnes is different to that employed for ordinary vintage and non-vintage fizz. But all champagne is a blend of three varieties namely Chardonnay Pinot Meunier and Pinot Noir. There are, however, a few exceptions, which include two of those sampled in our tasting: Taittinger's fine Comtes de Champagne, which is a Blanc de Blancs made exclusively from the Chardonnay grape, and Dom Ruinart is another Blanc de Blancs, which comes from a firm founded in 1729 that claims to be *"la plus ancienne maison de Champagne"*.

The competition between the different champagne houses is intense. With so much at stake each does its best to extract every last drop of razzmatazz and snob appeal from their *cuvées de prestige*. Moët probably attracts more publicity than anyone else, with the elegant 18th century lines of their dark green Dom Pérignon bottle. Several other *grandes marques* have shamelessly copied the bottle but not, it seems, the sales, for DP still sells three times as much as its nearest competitor.

Packaging is important: it is clear that the bottles in which the champagnes come are an integral part of their appeal. And if we have a Frenchman to thank for the best champagne in the world, it is to a Russian that the credit must go for insisting that they should be *seen* to be the best.

In 1876 Tsar Alexander III asked the makers of the Russian imperial court's favourite champagne to produce a bottle that was superior to the normal plebian green variety. Maison Roederer duly obliged with the stylish Cristal bottle, made in crystal-clear glass.

The celebrated Cristal bottle has continued to this day and almost outshines Dom Pérignon. However, the yellow cellophane wrapper – which is essential to protect the champagne from the light – does rather let the side down.

Over the years virtually every champagne house has tried some truly bizarre kind of bottle in an effort to make their particular prestige *cuvée* appear unique. The prettiest currently available must be Perrier-Jouët's Belle Epoque, whose garland of enamel hand-painted flowers are fired directly on to the surface of the bottle. Belle Epoque's art nouveau bottle, designed by Emile Gallé in 1902, was tremendously popular before the First World War and was apparently appreciated by everyone from Queen Victoria to Sarah Bernhardt.

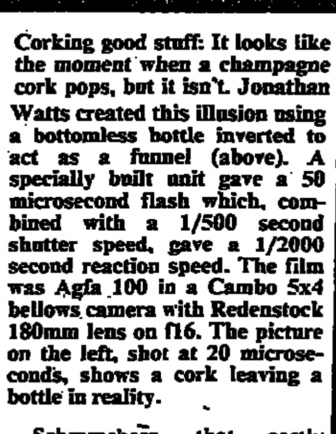
One of the most unusual bottles around is Madame Clicquot-Ponsardin's curvaceous La Grande Dame. I like to think that La Grande Dame's generous curves are modelled on this courageous and redoubtable widow who took over her husband's modest business at the age of 28. Her achievements over the next 61 years until her death included inventing an important new stage in the *méthode champenoise* process, making her own champagne famous, and founding a bank.

But there is a lot more to good champagne than commercial cunning and beautiful bottles. Behind all the marketing hype lie some remarkable wines that no producer from outside the Champagne region of France has been able to rival, despite intense *méthode champenoise* competition from other parts of the world.

Schramsberg, that costly sparkler from the Napa Valley in California, has perhaps got the closest, but even that can compete only with the champagne houses' vintage rather than prestige blends. One or two other *méthode champenoise* wines from different parts of France also come within shouting distance, notably the south west's Blanquette de Limoux and the odd Crémant de La Loire fizz. But, like it or not, there is something extraordinarily fine, rare and - no doubt much to the champagne houses' considerable relief - unattainable about the top prestige *cuvées*.

Apart from Dom Pérignon and Cristal big sellers include Laurent Perrier's Cuvée Grand Siècle, which along with Krug's Grande Cuvée is one of the few non-vintage prestige *cuvées* available. Confusingly, Krug claim that all their champagnes are *cuvées de prestige* and that includes the Grande Cuvée (currently made from a blend of six different vintages of which the youngest is 1977).

One of the latest on the market (as yet available only in magnums) is Pol Roger's Sir Winston Churchill. Sir Winston once called the firm's headquarters in the Avenue du Champagne in Epernay "the world's most drinkable address" and reputedly drank a bottle of Pol a day. The new *cuvée* returns the compliment in a way that the great man would doubtless have appreciated to the full.



Oxford Scientific Labs



Corking good stuff: It looks like the moment when a champagne cork pops, but it isn't. Jonathan Watts created this illusion using a bottomless bottle inverted to act as a funnel (above). A specially built unit gave a 50 microsecond flash which, combined with a 1/500 second shutter speed, gave a 1/2000 second reaction speed. The film was Agfa 100 in a Cambo 5x4 bellows camera with Redenstock 180mm lens on f16. The picture on the left, shot at 20 microseconds, shows a cork leaving a bottle in reality.

Edited by Shona Crawford Poole

TRAVEL

Turkish delight and a breath of fresh air

Ronald Faux on the pleasures of warm weather sailing in the eastern Aegean

However bitter the divisions lingering between Greece and Turkey, Aeolus, the Greek god of the wind, still blows with perfect impartiality. Daily out of the wine-dark sea the surge of warm air materializes from the Cyclades and across the Dodecanese, sweeping on to the coves and headlands of the Turkish coast. We could have set the chronometer by it.

Mornings dawned in a glass calm, the yacht anchored on its own reflection. Then at 10 o'clock the first catspaw of breeze shimmered on the surface. By noon the surface would be beaten pewter, perfect for mastering the art of wind surfing and by mid-afternoon a full-bellied Falstaff of a wind would be sweeping into the gulf of Kos which was the point of our exploration.

It was rarely enough to oblige more than a few balancing turns on the furling headsail and warm wind even at gale force never seems to hold the same threat as the cold British variety, which may have the added complication of blowing across the top of a tide. In that bottlenecked pond of the Mediterranean, tide is never a worry.

The Turkish coast is the place to dream of when rain is running drably off your oilskins and the end-of-season weather in Britain tests your real enthusiasm. It is generally less crowded than the islands of Greece, having been discovered and developed more recently by the yachting fraternity. The finger of progress is tending to press eastwards along the Aegean coast and was last seen halfway down the Lycian shore. Progress, of course, means marinas, service bases, rising expectations, a more commercial attitude in the communities along the coast and a rise in the cost of life for tourists. The ideal is to enjoy these places before Aeolus blows in with rather more than the wind.

There were three of us on the boat, an excellent 40ft Moody sloop owned by an oil company executive in the Middle East and managed on his behalf by Top Yacht charter as part of a small but high quality fleet of yachts at Bodrum. Locals reflected that only a few years ago the town and its superb fortress lay sleepily by the sea guarded by a deterrent stretch of narrow, pot-holed road. Now the road was good giving smooth entry for air conditioned coaches from Izmir airport, four hours away. Europe lies two hours beyond by jet.

Development has been indirectly helped by the Greeks and the attitude they began to take towards tourists and yacht operators: shaking them until their halyards rattled in terms of taxes and charges. We were told that a number of British charter firms had sailed east from Greece to resettle in the financially calmer waters of Turkey.

On the quayside at Bodrum we walked along the edge of a forest of masts rising from the decks of handsome glass-fibre cruisers, gin palaces and traditionally Turkish *gulets*, wood-built with spacious aft decks and matronly transoms. The idea of making Bodrum a yachting gateway to the eastern Aegean is clearly on a successful course.

We settled on board *Bansidhe* (Gaelic for banshee) as the moon poured cool light on the ancient walls of the castle, once occupied by the crusader knights of St John. We received "the Top Yacht welcome" and a detailed tour of the boat and its mysteries. The vessel had what was proudly claimed to be the best fridge in the east Mediterranean, a frozen oasis that could provide an endless supply of chilled beer, the best antidote to 85° of sunshine.

Top Yacht requires that one person on board a "bare boat" charter should have the Royal Yachting Association certificate of competence or a similar qualification, and a £400 deposit concentrates the mind on responsible sailing. We motored out from between two elegant

> 'Anchorages that were a veritable box of delights'

gulets early next morning. The marina was so crowded that the space we left immediately closed as the neighbouring boats eased their moorings.

So began six days of superb sailing with the gulfs of Kos, Doris and Gullfuk, the Dodecanese or even the Lycian coast as the offered choice. We decided on the Gulf of Kos because of the relatively short time available and the cumbersome paperwork required to land on Greek territory.

The gulf is a broad cove 30 miles deep with the Anatolian hills rising beyond it. The edge is deeply cut with coves and fjords and although navigational aids are few, so too are the offshore dangers. Careful navigation is rarely required for fear of hitting a reef but more to preserve the self-respect of the navigator.

Bansidhe was a well found yacht lacking nothing, with state apartment and en suite toilet aft and a warren of berths and cabins elsewhere. Bodrum may have been developed, but along the shores of the gulf there was little sign of such progress. We



Ancient and Modern: The castle of the crusader knights which overlooks the busy fishing port of Bodrum

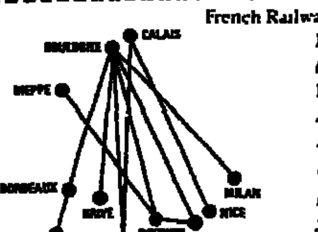
were well guided by the cruising notes on board which introduced us to such villages as Vasiliki where we tied *Bansidhe's* stern to a rock, pulling her securely back on to her anchor as the local restaurateur, Captain Ibrahim, ferried people ashore. We ate lamb kebab grilled on an open fire as the sea whispered up to the legs of tables set on the beach. Locals played sombre music on a long-necked lute. Men dance with men in Turkey and it is no good complaining your card is full. You are forced on to the floor for this macho performance: lots of slow, bold stamping of the feet and peacock gesturing, a cross between bull fighting and a Wigan clog dance.

The days drifted by through a nicely varied choice of anchorages. The southern shore of the gulf was the most impressive, with deep inlets sheltered by gentle folds of woodland giving anchorages that were a veritable box of delights. Cleopatra's Island could have been superb, with it beaches of fine sand that was once ballast in the visiting Egyptian sailing vessels. Unfortunately the island is a mecca for commercial pleasure boats and every nook and cranny on the island is now clogged with rubbish. An untidy lot, the Turks, but away from the crowds and the tourist tracks and in places that can only be reached by boat there is no such problem.

Sometimes the disorganization is delightful. The average evening meal with wine included cost £5 per head but one evening the wine costs soared because the food we had ordered failed to appear. The entire *al fresco* restaurant of diners became very relaxed around tables made from milestones, as bottles clunked to the floor and the restaurant owner fended all enquiries about food with a bright smile, meanwhile studying the horizon with his binoculars. Eventually came the spluttering sound of a small motor vessel. His brother was arriving with the food and soon the meat was sizzling in the barbecue and on the spit. Turkey has that charm of refusing to organize tourism too slickly, and continues at an unchanged pace. What country, for example, would continue the annual rite of *Kerban Bayran* or sheep slaughtering in front of sensitive western visitors? One Bodrum hotelier was deeply puzzled to know why his guests should faint and fall about when, in the true Turkish tradition, he led a sheep on to the doorstep of his hotel and cheerfully slit its throat.

Top Yacht Charter fly parties to Izmir every Sun from Gatwick using British Airtours. Two weeks on *Bansidhe*, on a basis of six sharing in September, would be £526 a head including return flight, coach links, taxes, insurance and windsurfer. Top Yacht's address is Andrew Hill Lane, Hedgerley, Buckinghamshire (02814 2640).





The Seine and seins nus

Robin Young on the varied life and history around France's famous river



Kingly courtesan: Agnes Sorel in a revealing and appealing pose

When it comes to short winter breaks at bargain fares, it is not only the breaks that are short. So are the days. The Seine valley, easily accessible from most of the Channel ports, fills the out-of-season bill for short distances, pleasurable accommodation, and meals worth lingering over. The huge loops in the river's course, where white cliffs and alluvial plains alternate between banks, create a series of distinctive peninsulas, fascinating to explore.

We started from Le Havre which, though modern and concrete, is not as inhuman as it looks. It is worth searching out its whale of a Maison de la Culture and sophisticated shops. Lefèvre in the rue Victor Hugo is a better food shop than almost any in Britain – and, to be fair, most in France. La Petite Auberge, on the rue de Ste-Adresse; (tel: 010.33.35.46.27.32), is a charming family restaurant of the old red gingham sort, serving substantial meals at 69 francs, and so popular that you will not get in unless you book.

For plusher comfort and *fussier food*, Dubuc at Le Hode, beyond the industrial tangle of the port, has 140 franc menus which can be inexpensively complemented with excellent cider at 25 francs (to book, ring 010.33.35.20.06.97). The meal may still leave time for a visit to the frescos in the old church of St Jean d'Abbetot before moving on to Lillebonne, its Roman theatre, and the castle where William mustered his barons for the Conquest.

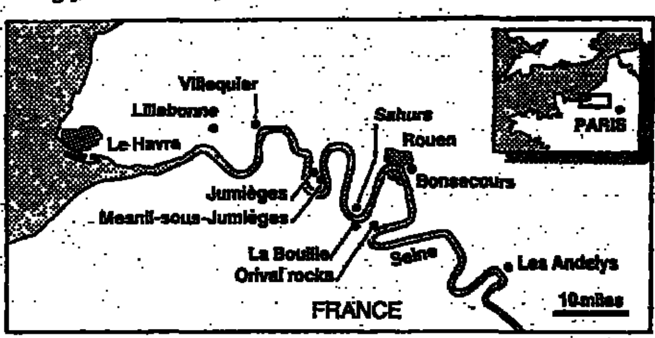
At Villequier the Seine is beautiful indeed. The Victor Hugo museum by the quay is a poignant reminder that his newly-married daughter drowned here with her husband in 1843. Of pre-war Caudebec, only three houses and the fine flamboyant church survive, but the riverside is delightful. André Delaporte, at 3 Quai Guilbaud, collects trophies from the annual contest of the Golden Tripe Pot for his *tripes à la mode de Caen*. In a cool bag, a tureen can be kept five days to be eaten at home.

For hotels, the choice lies between the grand Domaine de Villequier or creeper-clad Manoir de Retival in their own grounds high over the river, or the Marine, the only hotel at river and road level which I know to have reasonable sound insulation.

It is good to be on hand for morning mass sung with Gregorian chant in the monastery *church (a resurrected tithe barn)* in the ruins of St Wandrille abbey, where saints "flourished like rose trees in a greenhouse". More splendid still are the ruins of Jumièges. In spring its banks are bright with clusters of luminous primroses and while we were there the abbey was encircled by that most French of sporting events, a cycle race.

At Mesnil-sous-Jumièges is the old farmhouse where Agnes Sorel, favourite of Charles VII, died. Quiet, grey and austere, it seems oddly modest and remote for a courtesan who won notoriety by baring first both breasts but later only one.

The Jumièges promontory is full of fruit trees. The Route of Fruit has orchards on one hand, the river on the other, impossibly pretty in blossom time. Le Parc at Duclair is an imposing hotel, not as expensive as its riverside gardens might make you think.



Rounding the bend of the river beneath coast-like cliffs brings us to the abbey of St Georges at Saint Martin de Boscherville, which survives because it is now a parish church. The roof is patched with corrugated sheets, birds nest in the main door archivolts, but ring 010.33.35.32.00.19 in winter to arrange to see the treasures inside.

This peninsula seems wild, remote and poor. There are still peasants milking by hand in the fields. At Sahurs, the Marboeuf

> 'On to Orival, where donkeys peep from caves in the cliffs'

chapel stands within a rundown manor, overshadowed by encroaching trees. Anne of Austria once promised it a silver statue equal in weight to the child she prayed for, and paid up when Louis XIV weighed in at 12lb. The statue, alas, went with the Revolution.

A ferry delivered us to the little resort of La Bouille where the rooms of the Saint Pierre, looking directly on to the water, offer awesome views of the big ships and almost submerged barges manoeuvring the river bends. The menu (at 166 francs) offered a poor choice of dishes but you can no longer be obliged to eat at the hotel where you stay in France, and La Bouille has at least three other *restaurants with interesting menus*.

Robert the Devil's castle is a fine viewpoint, now strangely taken over with mini-golf and waxworks. A reconstruction of a Viking longboat serves as reminder that the Normans were Norsemen, prowling these river bends 12 centuries ago.

From here, one can take a short cut through the forest of La Londe to Orival rocks, where the church is half buried in the cliff and donkeys peeping from chalk caves make them look like nativity mangers. But if there is time do not miss Rouen, which is really worth a break of its own. Walk the rounds of the old market place, the great clock, the cathedral, the church and charnel house (now art school) of Saint Maclou, and Saint Ouen – an exceptional example of modern life in picturesque period surroundings.

Rouen has two exceptionally good new restaurants. Gill, 60 rue St Nicolas (010.33.35.71.16.14), with a chef from Taillevent in Paris, is all the rage with the town's businessmen, but Bertrand Warin, 9 rue Pie, off the market place, is more charming and cheaper (010.33.35.89.26.69). Good value fixed menus (99 and 125 francs respectively).

If staying overnight, the Bristol, 4 rue aux Juifs, is a sympathetically managed, modest hotel conveniently situated in the old quarter.

Try driving south-east on the Rouen corniche to Ste Catherine Hill and Bonsecours. At sunset especially it will impress you as it did the Impressionists. From Bonsecours the drive is still scenic, past the Amfreville lock, St Adrien rocks, the steep hills of the Côte des Deux Amants and the almost human profile of La Roque to Les Andelys, the loveliest site of all the Seine, dominated by Château Gaillard.

Down at the waterside, cheek by jowl with the busy barges, is La Chaine d'Or, a splendid example of all that a thronging, friendly French inn should be. The menus, at 90 francs, are fine and the rooms (the dearest 240 francs) good value (010.33.32.54.00.31).

Beyond Les Andelys the proximity of Paris becomes palpable with increasingly desirable properties along the river. Our last stop was Le Moulin de Connelles (010.33.32.59.82.54), an architectural fantasy straight from a Charles Addams cartoon.

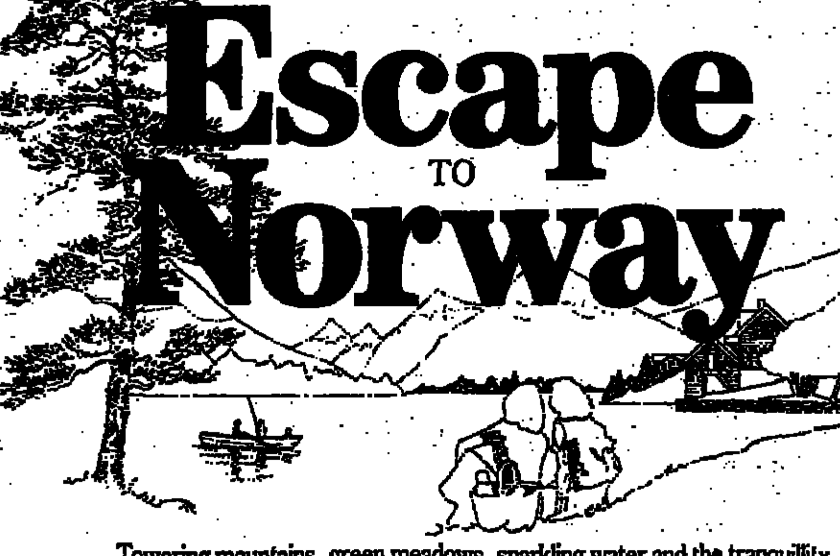
Eerie by moonlight, and still being repaired and improved, it is an extraordinary place. Our room under the eaves (350 francs) had a wood-panelled and tile-ornamented balcony. The river slides right under the hotel dining room, and there is a private island which catches all the sun. The place has not yet been discovered by the English guides, but there was a gracious note from Sir John Gielgud in the visitors' book.

All the cross-channel ferry companies offer bargain rates for five day mini-breaks, allowing up to 120 hours ashore. P & O charge from £91 for a car and three adults, plus £16 for each additional adult, on their Southampton-Le Havre route. Townsend Thoresen, sailing from Portsmouth, charge from £26 for the car and £25.50 for each adult passenger.











Beryl Downing at the New Year sales

VALUES

Cheap thrills

The week after Christmas is known in American stores as "the thirteenth month" – the time to make up on the sales swings any shortfall on the retail roundabouts during the rest of the year, or in boom times simply to add extra noughts to the balance sheet.

There are plenty of noughts to add. Harrods, who are even advertising their sale in New York newspapers this year, took £28m last January – more than 10 per cent of their annual turnover – from customers fighting to snap up anything going for a song, even if the starting price was more of an aria than a jingle. In harsh economic times people buy quality because it has to last.

The one thing no one can afford at sale time is indecision, so it is as well to know which departments will prove the best hunting grounds. For the house, Harrods is best for top quality china, Selfridges for large electrical goods, John Lewis for duvets and towels, Heal's for modern glass.

Fashion, of course, is a very individual choice, so head for the designers that suit you or stick to classics – this is the time to buy your Burberry, cashmere, leather and fur.

To point you in the right direction, here is a room-by-room guide to some of the most worth while bargains selected from this year's main sales.

KITCHEN

Half-price pans – Prestige's Italia non-stick pans, red with Teflon lining: 26cm frypan, for example, £8.95 (reduced from £17.95); Tefal's Graphite non-stick pans in grey, 20cm saucepan £7.45 (£14.95); marble pastry slab 14in x 18in £6.25 (£12.50) and rolling pin £3.25 (£6.50). **Harrods Cookshop**

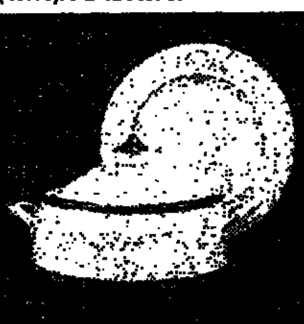
Polaris stainless steel seconds, 26cm frypan £14 (£24.50), saucepans 14cm £14 to 20cm £21 (£26.50 to £37), 20cm casserole £21 (£37). Be careful when you buy Polaris as there are two qualities in the same design – this, the deluxe, and a standard version which is slightly cheaper. **John Lewis**

Bosch fridge/freezer KSZ 430 £349 (£410); Bosch free standing oven EH680SB £299 (£399); AEG washer dryer 2040 £419 (£518). **Selfidges**

DINING ROOM

Large plain glass salad bowl by Iittala £19.25 (£33.50); seconds of Rosenthal Medallion porcelain, white, 50 per cent off perfect price: teapot £6.30 (£12.65), teacup £1.25 (£2.50) 26cm plate £2.50 (£4.10); Hornsey Concept range, white, glazed inside, matt out, seconds 30 per cent off – teapot £13.95 (£19.95), 10in plate £3.40 (£4.90), soup/cereal £2.75 (£3.95). **Heal's**

David Mellor cutlery, 20 per cent off: six-piece set of classically simple Java design with red, black or yellow handles £16.20 (£20.25); child's matching three-piece set for ages two to ten £7.08 (£8.85); all stainless steel cutlery for every day called Café, four piece set £4.12 (£5.15). **David Mellor**



Royal Doulton Carlyle 25 piece dinner service, banded in peacock blue and gold £275.65 (£551); Minton St James 25-piece service (illustrated) elegantly plain with narrow border of blue and gold £216.65 (£432.50); Portuguese white ceramic cachepots with simple basketweave design – the best foil for plants – 5in £1.75, 6½in £2.50, 8in £3.50, 9½in £4 (£3.50 to £8). **Harrods**

Dartington Dimple range: highball £2.35 (£3.95), old fashioned tumbler £2.35 (£3.95), double old fashioned £2.85 (£4.75); pairs of Irish coffee glasses with handle £5.75 (£9.50); Stewart crystal Glen Garry, sherry £4.95 (£7.95), small wine £5.50 (£8.95). **John Lewis**

Vinicool wine coolers, seconds £7.50 (£14.95). **Fenwick**

LIVING ROOM

On Jan 5, one only, Scala natural ash bureau £395 (£1,485). This is an example of Heal's one-only bargains at less than cost price which will be added to the normal sales items each Saturday, including the last day of the sale, Jan 26. **Heal's**

Sony video recorder (Beta) SLC40 £399 (£549), Sony 27in colour television with teletext KV 2706UB £539 (£698), **Harrods**

Oriental rugs, half price. 6ftx4ft wool Hamadan, red background, £220 (£500), 5ftx3ft silk Kum, navy ground £999 (£2,200), rare 60 years old 10ftx7ft wool Shirtz (Qushqi) light blue ground, £1,100 (£2,500). No two alike. **Cyprus Carpets**

Toulemonde-Bochart wool dhurries in soft pastels, designed in Paris and Brussels, 10 per cent off all designs, more off some. Normal prices: 6ftx4ft £160, 9ftx6ft £360, 9ftx12ft £695. **Divertimenti**



BEDROOM BATHROOM

Polished brass bedstead with 5ft Vi-spring Viceroy base and mattress £950 (£1,906); electrically adjustable bed by Treca de Paris, single size with pocketed sprung mattress, £1.183 (£2,387). **London Bedding Centre**

Discontinued and seconds bed linen – double sheets £10 (£14,95); plain pillowslips £2 (£3.45), single duvet covers £12 (£17,95), valances from £8 to £12 (£12.95 to £19 95) according to size. **Laura Ashley**

Vanessa self-assembly furniture, white finish with red or blue trim – nice for children's rooms: single bed with drawers £127 (£160), wall unit with record rack £105 (£132), **Maples, Waring & Gillow**

Special purchases duvets: new white goose feathers 13.5 tog, single £59, double £79, king £99; down and feather 12 tog single £35, double £45, king £59, all made in China; polyester 12 tog single £17, double £26, king £33, made in UK; good range of Jonelle towels, seconds: guest £1.45 (£1.95), hand £2.95 (£3.95), bath £4.95 (£6.95). **John Lewis**



In the mink – at £1,900 less than the usual price. Classic demi-buff coat, £4,900 reduced from £6,800 in the Birger Christensen/Maxwell Croft sale which begins January 14

MEN'S CLOTHES

Dinner jackets £60 (£120); Magee lounge suits, pure wool, £115 (£145); Burberry shirts £18,95 (£32,50). **Moss Bros**

Classic corduroy jackets with suede elbow patches £59 (£99), wool/mohair lightweight trousers £29 (£45), lambswool intarsia sweaters £19 (£38), V-neck lambswool classic sweaters £12.50 (£25). **Jaeger.**

Leather slip-on shoes with lizard vamp, Galileo £60 (£125) black only. **Bally**

The trenchcoat with the original check lining £160 (£215) **Burberrys**

Leather and suede blousons, textured or plain, from £365 (£498), chunky hunting jackets, belted or elasticated waists with zip fronts, many with lamb collars £450 (£675). **Loewe**

WOMEN'S CLOTHES

Tweed blazer style jackets in current Jaeger fashion colours – amethyst, sapphire, ruby and treebark – £59 (£115), botany wool, tunic style sweaters in same colours, £15 (£31); blazer in padded pink and grey brocade with silver Lurex £49 (£89). **Jaeger**

Alexon blazers, grey, £42.50 (£85); Gor-Ray skirts £19.99 (£39.99); classic cashmere and wool coats, double breasted, black, grey, camel or taupe £49.99 (£65). **D. H. Evans**

Prince of Wales check wool dresses £62 (£92); burgundy double breasted wool jackets £37 (£75), skirts £19.50 (£39) and trousers £19.50 (£39), all classic styles; Options departments of **Austin Reed**

Tweed coats £129 (£199) and fur trimmed coats £299 (£429), velvet trousers £32.50 (£47), corduroy trousers £29.50 (£42), black velvet suits with straight skirts and waist skimming collarless jackets £149.50 (£195). **Aquascutum**

Silk satin bras and briefs each £5.95 (£8.95), French Connection cord trousers £19 (£37.95), pleated tweed skirts by Laurel £57 (£115), stylish Stephen Marks college coats £99 (£135). **Fenwick**

Ranch mink jacket £975 (£1,495), ranch mink coat £2,950 (£4,200), natural demi-buff mink coat £4,900 (£6,800), blue silver fox cape £5,900 (£8,900), silk raincoat with sable collar, lined in sable mosaic £2,350 (£2,950). **Birger Christensen/Maxwell Croft** – the first sale since these two international names in top quality furs merged three months ago.

Liberty print fabrics (imperfect): plain silk chiffon £3 metre (£6.50), silk crepe de chine £12 (£16.50), Tana lawn £3.50 (£5.25), printed silk and cashmere shawls £25 (£59.95). **Liberty**

Softest nappa leather "battle" coats in airforce blue only £620 (£898), three quarter length khaki leather jackets with wool bouclé linings £500 (£727) and 30 per cent off all leatherware and accessories (except black). **Loewe**

Flat brown lace-ups, Pinstripe, £19.99 (£33.99); Charles Jourdan taupe court shoes, Etoile £45.99 (£69.50); classic black Bally courts £35.99 (£65.99). **Russell & Bromley**

Yves St Laurent and most Rayne shoes half price, including navy court with patterned toe cap illustrated £49.50 (£79.50). **Rayne.**

CHILDREN'S CLOTHES

Dolman-sleeved acrylic jumpers in cream, red or bright blue, sizes 6-10 and 12-14 £5.99 (£7.99); check skirt, blue only, same sizes £4.99 (£6.99); Victorian-style dress in blue or black heavy cotton with tiny flower print and plain white cambric over-pinafore, for ages two to five, £7.99 (£9.99); white nylon lace tights to wear with it, 99p (1.49) both illustrated. **Debenhams**



Bright blue acrylic crew neck sweatshirt with grey cotton shoulder insert (or pink with grey) 90cm, 100cm and 110cm £2.99 (£3.75), grey jogging suit with red yoke, acrylic/polester, 90cm to 140cm £4.99 to £5.99 (£6.50 to £7.50). **Mothercare**

Now on
Aquascutum, 100 Regent Street, London, W1
Alexon, 61 Conduit Street, W1
Allders of Croydon, North End, Croydon
Laura Ashley, all branches
Austin Reed, all branches
Bally, all branches
Boots, all branches
British Homes Stores, all branches
Burberrys, 18-22 Haymarket, SW1 and 165 Regent Street, W1
Paddy Campbell, 8 Gees Court, W1 and 17 Beauchamp Place, SW3
Country Casuals, Chesham House, 150 Regent Street, W1
Cyprus Carpets, 47-48 Piccadilly, W1
Debenhams, all branches
Dickins & Jones, 224 Regent Street, W1
Divertimenti, 139-141 Fulham Road, SW3
D. H. Evans, Oxford Street, W1
Feathers, 40 Hans Crescent, SW1
Fenwick, New Bond Street, W1
Homes, all branches
Habitat, all branches
Heal's, 196 Tottenham Court Road, W1
Hilditch & Key, 37 & 73 Jermyn Street, SW1
Jaeger, all branches
John Lewis and branches
K. West Furs, 21 Heddon Street, Regent Street, W1
Les Tricots Caroll, 68-70 King's Road, SW3
Liberty, Regent Street, W1
Littlewoods, all branches
London Bedding Centre, 26-27 Sloane Street, SW1
Maples, Waring & Gillow, Tottenham Court Road, W1
Moss Bros, all branches
Mothercare all branches
Raynes, all branches
Reject China Shops, all branches
Russell & Bromley, all branches
Sanderson, 52 Berners Street, W1
Selfridges, Oxford Street, W1
Simpson, Piccadilly, W1
Tesco, Home'n'Wear Departments
Woolworth & Woolco, all branches

Monday
C&A at Brent Cross
Tuesday
C&A all branches (except Scotland, Newcastle, Middlesbrough, Sunderland which start on Wed)
Thursday
Charles Jourdan, 39-43 Brompton Road, SW3
Lillywhites, Piccadilly Circus, SW1
Harvey Nichols, Knightsbridge, SW1
Friday
Harrods, Knightsbridge, SW1
Saturday
Rossetti, 177 New Bond Street, W1
January 7
Loewe, 25 Old Bond Street, W1
January 9
The White House, 51/52 New Bond Street, W1
January 12
David Mellor, all branches
January 14
Birger Christensen/Maxwell Croft, 105/106 New Bond Street, W1
Caroline Charles, 9 Beauchamp Place, W1

IN THE GARDEN

Popularity and practicality



For many people, 1984 turned out to be the year of the geranium. It is only in the last twelve months that many of the new varieties have received the attention they deserve. Now I am looking forward eagerly to the new cascade forms being perfected; at the moment they flower well but difficulties have been experienced in achieving the full cascade effect. The F2 geraniums are much cheaper than the F1s and are much the same provided you buy the right varieties.

Geraniums may get the popular vote, but for me the success of the year has been *Spathiphyllum* Mauna Loa, an indoor plant which has flowered almost ceaselessly for the last six months. I used to try *S wallisii*, but it was often more trouble than it was worth; this new hybrid is infinitely better. It flourishes in a room which is warm and has good light in winter.

Another great step forward in 1984 has been the decision of most seed firms to offer young plantlets for sale. Many gardeners have no greenhouse in which to raise their own plants; now, instead of having to buy plants ready for planting out, you can get the firms to deliver young seedlings to your home. You can then grow them on for the garden either in a cold frame or a very sheltered site.

There have also been significant improvements in the quality of machinery on the market. Most welcome of all is the new Victa Vortex mower, which is by far the quietest rotary I have tried and works well in all sorts of garden, no matter how bumpy your lawn might be.

The lack of rain over the summer created problems over watering, so the appearance of the Hozelock ASL irrigation system was particularly welcome.

System watering is both more efficient than traditionl methods and saves water.

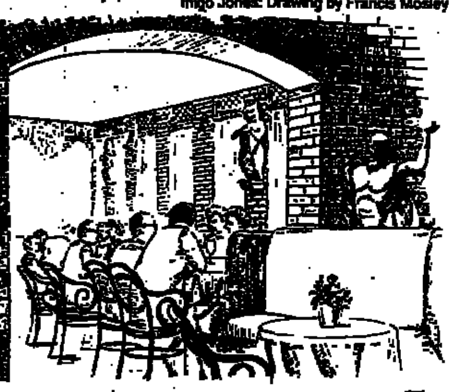
Feeding was also made easier, thanks to the Phospray Dilutor, a two-gallon watering can which enables water and feed to be sprayed on to the plants simultaneously and at the correct rate.

Ashley Stephenson

EATING OUT

Food for thoughts of the year

As 1984 draws to a close we look back on the year's catering trends, look forward with the 1985 Good Food Guide, and list these restaurants which we liked most over the year . . .



Inigo Jones: Drawing by Francis Mosley

In a year when a survey revealed that British restaurant-going habits are largely unchanged from the 1950s – prawn cocktails, steaks and black forest gateau are still the favourites – it may seem odd to gauge 1984 as a year of progress but, from the admittedly privileged position of restaurant critic, that did seem to be the case.

If asked to offer a quick list of plus marks, I would point to the increase of fixed-price, "no hidden extras" menus offering value for money; to the much improved standard of food being served in wine bars; to the emphasis more restaurants are placing on the freshness and quality of their ingredients (menus that change daily are a sign of that); and to the rise of ethnic restaurants.

Yet the development that may in the long-run offer a greater threat to the stranglehold of Messrs Prawn, Steak and Gateau, is the expansion of pub catering. Squeezed by the fast-food outlets on one side and by the slick cocktail and wine bars on the other, most of the major breweries have introduced "theming".

This usually involves transforming an innocuous suburban pub into a "conceptualized" combination of bars, family eating areas and games rooms. While the food in most theme pubs is, as yet, cautious – although finding steak teriyaki in a Metroland hostelry was a pleasant surprise – these places can alter popular taste.

The themed pubs are also involved in another influential strand of development – all day/all purpose restaurants – which, in turn, are increasing pressure for more flexible licensing laws. With the successful expansion of drinking hours in Scotland offering supportive evidence, it may yet be possible to snack and tipple *à la Francaise* in England well before the 21st century.

Restaurant of the Year: Inigo Jones, 14 Garrick Street, London WC2 (836 6456)
Wine Bar of the Year: The Wine Gallery, 49 Hollywood Road, London SW10 (352 7572)
Pub of the Year: The George, 4 South Street, Bridport, Dorset (0308 23187)
Vegetarian Restaurant of the Year: Sabras, 263 Willesden High Road, London NW10 (459 0340)
Ethnic Restaurant of the Year: Mandalay, 100 Greenwich South Street, London SE10 (691 0443)
Brasserie of the Year: Café Pelican, 45 St Martin's Lane, London WC2 (379 0309)
Best Set Lunch: Tante Claire, 68 Royal Hospital Road, London SW3 (352 6045)
Best Set Dinner: Le Petit Blanc, 272 Banbury Road, Oxford (0865 53540)
Best Sunday Lunch: Chalcot's, 49 Chalcot Road, London NW1 (722 1956)
Best Breakfast: Coffee House, Inter-Continental Hotel, 1 Hamilton Place, London W1 (409 3131)

The main minus points of the restaurant-going year have continued to be excessive charges for selections of vegetables, the outer limits of nouvelle cuisine (the Mango Sauce Syndrome) and the snobbery-inspired retention of menus written in arcane French terminology. A simple revenge on the last offence is to insist on complete translations of every dish from the waiters.

The new *Good Food Guide* (Consumers' Association and Hodder & Stoughton, £8.95) acknowledges some of these irritations and more besides – 1985 looks like being "Boil in the Bag Year" – and commendably maintains the campaigning, popularizing style established by editor Drew Smith since he took over in 1982.

I suspect that the new ratings system (1-20 like *Gault-Millau*) may prejudice the reader against the more modest restaurants (marked 8 or 9 out of 20) when many, in terms of their own ambitions and achievements, are highly successful. Perhaps a clearer indication of status (Grade A, Grade B?) should be indicated before awarding the mark.

These are minor complaints however – the great triumph of *Good Food Guide* is that it encourages people of assorted means to eat out, to be more adventurous in their choice and to be less willing to accept the second-rate.

Finally, since the guide is so forthcoming with its awards, I append my own modest selection of the best of 1984. For various economic and practical reasons London addresses predominate – an imbalance which, in the spirit of New Year, this column resolves to correct.

Stan Hey

also on page 28

Entertainments

مكرر من الاصل

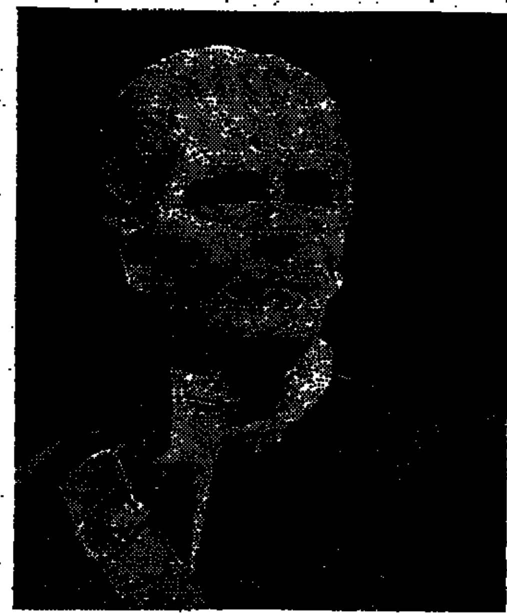
REVIEW

Anthony Masters reviews the past year on the British stage while **Geoff Brown** looks forward to the film productions of 1985

Actors made the plays on words

Performances will be my abiding memory of 1984, not plays. Many of our best playwrights, from Stoppard and Simon Gray to Stephen Lowe and Doug Lucie, came badly unstuck this year, but performers shone. Some all to briefly: Alan Bates as the chilling interrogator in Pinter's **One for the Road**, Brian Cox giving another prisoner the heavy verbal treatment in **Rat in the Skull** or humbly courting Glenda Jackson through the nine acts of **Strange Interlude**, Nichola McAuliffe as Wesker's three Annies in **Annie Wobbler** and an imperiously concupiscent Widow Quin in **The Playboy of the Western World**.

But many, happily, are still on show. Anthony Sher's dazzling Richard *III* will run for a few more performances at Stratford before, we hope, transferring to London. Benjamin Whitrow in **A Little Hotel on the Side** is still giving the funniest Feydeau performance for ages. Opposite a new leading man, the buoyant Gemma Craven is repeating her brilliantly original and witty reading of the multiple-murdering Irish nurse in **Loot**. And in **The Way of the World** at the Haymarket, Maggie Smith and John Moffatt dignify a great comedy with performances of classic perfection.





Great and gifted: Robert Eddison in Phedra and Maggie Smith in The Way of the World

The Way of the World is rather on my conscience, as an unreasonably late start left me little time to give individuals their due. The pleasure of seeing Maggie Smith's unique comic delivery was something we took for granted. But her genius for turning modest lines into gems of wit and inconsequence thrives in the greatest role in English artificial comedy.

If the production as a whole, since its recasting for London, sells the play's troubled and disturbing side short, she makes that woman's fight to preserve her integrity and freedom in a threatening world – using that very artificiality and display of temperament as her weapons – seem very real and important.

Even her whirlwind of frivolity in the face of Mirabell's infatuation never seems unkind, rather the delicious product of a humorist's unsleeping sense of the ridiculous.

Meanwhile, trailing breathlessly behind her, watching every chance to float an epigram, is a foppish old-maid in the beribboned shape of John Moffatt's Witwoud. Like Miss Smith's, this actor's long-perfected technique can be taken for granted. Like her, he thrives on the confident delicacy of Congreve's writing and trusts it. It rewards him well.

One great pleasure from the Old Vic's recent **Phedra** (some would say the only one) was Robert Eddison's delivery of the famous *récit de Théramène*, in which Hippolytus's tutor describes the young prince's horrific death with agonized tenderness.

GREAT PERFORMANCES 1984

The year started for him (and for me) in Tiverton, where the RSC's two pocket touring productions had settled for a few days in a school sports hall: Friar Laurence in **Romeo and Juliet**, like Theramenes in **Phedra**, proved a worthy subject for his most individual gifts – spiritual authority, wisdom, delicacy and kindness, and verse speaking of the greatest beauty and subtlety.

He seemed, in the RSC productions, to spend both plays trying to keep uncontrollable people in order: one night the young lovers, the next a stageful of rehearsing mechanicals in **A Midsummer Night's Dream** in which he played Peter Quince. Amateur dramatics are a very serious business and his Quince was the essence of directorial despair, silently mouthing the lines for Pyramus and Thisbe in performance, wincing at every faux paus and pulling out his hanky for the sad bits. Never for a moment did he suggest he might be acting in a comedy; which explains why it was so funny.

The year's end is a time when we know few future plans. Could we, one day, see Miss Smith and Mr Eddison together? She must conquer Millamant's French counterpart, Célemène in **Le Misanthrope**. Philinte is the essence of Eddison sweet reason, and John Moffatt could do wonders with one on those conceited marquesses. Well, it will do for a midwinter night's dream.

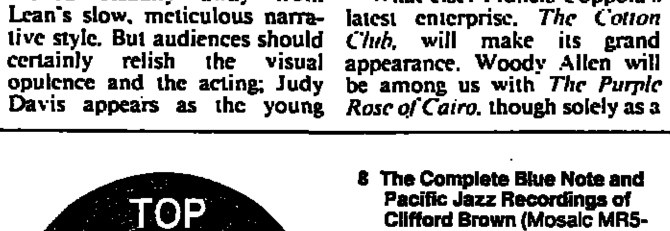
Theatre listings p16

A passage to greater screen images

Forgive me if you're feeling satiated, but might I turn your attention to Christmas 1985? It falls next year on December 25 – a safe enough choice of date – and other traditions seem certain to be maintained. Television sets will groan under the burden of old Hollywood blockbusters, animal adventures, vintage comedians, and the odd animated delight from Finland. Cinemas, in turn, will entice customers with Disney revivals, animal adventures, and new Hollywood blockbusters. One of them, definitely, will be *Santa Claus The Movie*, the latest venture of the Salkind family, recently responsible for Superman's screen exploits.

The film has been in production throughout the year at Pinewood studios and suitable locations in Greenland, Norway and elsewhere, though mist shrouds the plot. We are promised, at least, Dudley Moore as the principal elf, lots of reindeers, and David Huddleston as Santa. Executive producer Ilya Salkind naturally breathes nothing but good news: "This film shoud appeal to every possible category of human being", he declared last March. Heavens, does this include critics?

At this date it is hard to pin down other seasonal offerings; much depends on the way films perform at the American box office. Throughout the year, however, we may expect to see many formula entertainments, built on the bones of past successes: small-town horror in *Poltergeist II*; *Boy's Own Paper* heroics in *Wild Geese II*; another James Bond adventure, *A View to a Kill*; a *2001* sequel, *2010*, with return appearances by the rebellious computer HAL and the mysterious black monolith, though not, unfortunately, by director Stanley Kubrick. At some time, too, we will be faced with a third version of Rider Haggard's war horse *King Solomon's Mines*.



Star attraction: Judy Davis in A Passage to India, directed by David Lean, due here in March

If the last prospect makes the heart sink to the boots, there are many many others guaranteed to restore happiness, and some are just around the corner. After January 16, we can enjoy Milos Forman's version of *Amadeus*: a two and a half hour feast of brilliantly juggled music and drama, with fine acting from some unknown players. In the hands of Tom Hulce, Mozart appears as "the John McEnroe of classical music", to quote one American critic.

Amadeus occupies the silver screen with majesty; the same may be expected of David Lean's version of E. M. Forster's *A Passage to India*, just unveiled in America and due here some time in March. In the 14 years since the director's last film, *Ryan's Daughter*, cinema fashions have moved steadily away from Lean's slow, meticulous narrative style. But audiences should certainly relish the visual opulence and the acting; Judy Davis appears as the young English girl who accuses a cultivated Indian doctor of attempted rape, while Peggy Ashcroft plays her elderly companion, Mrs Moore.

FILM PREVIEW 1985

While Lean diligently seeks ways of conveying a famous novel to the screen, other directors are creating novels directly for the cinema. Take Edgar Reitz and his remarkable film *Heimat*, due for a month's run at the Lumiere in London from February 16. For 15 hours, 40 minutes and 10 seconds, we observe life in a German village from 1919 to 1982.

What else? Francis Coppola's latest enterprise, *The Cotton Club*, will make its grand appearance. Woody Allen will be among us with *The Purple Rose of Cairo*, though solely as a director; its subject, as usual with Allen, is presently wrapped in secrecy. We can also expect new films from Kurosawa (*Ran*, a 16th-century spectacle with overtones of *King Lear*), Godard (*Detective*) and Jacques Rivette (*Wuthering Heights*, in a French setting). Films are also in the pipeline from Fellini (*Ginger and Fred*, about a middle-aged dance team trying to make a television comeback), and Wim Wenders (a science-fiction story, *To the End of the World*).

But where, in all this, is Britain? March 1985 sees the launch of British Film Year. The aim is to push up Britain's drooping admission figures by at least 49 per cent, and the organizers have coined a rather gentlemanly slogan : "Cinema: The Best Place to See a Film". It is indeed, though all the smiling ticket-tearers in the world cannot rescue a bad film. Let us drink, at any rate, to the good ones.

Film listings p16

Max Bell turns back the rock clock

Scallywags and worthy causes

It was the year **Frankie Goes To Hollywood** got the pundits and punters talking. Without being tied down to a marketing, production or even a purely musical format, the scallywags from Liverpool got under the music industry's thick skin and made it itch.

Partially as a riposte and also to salve a long overdue social *conscience some of the super*groups – **Spandau Ballet**, **Duran Duran**, and **Wham!** among others – retaliated by convening the **Band Aid** project for a worthy cause though the single they produced is no musical milestone.

George Michael of Wham! proved himself to be an accomplished tunesmith and Duran held a steady course both with their yachting activities and their world wide fan club. They kept themselves in the full glare of the media spotlight by being accused of all sorts of naughtiness in the tabloids and getting married. They satisfied all the requirements of that dubious calling, being full-time celebrities.

Boy George of **Culture Club** was anywhere and everywhere, from *Woman* magazine to *Cosmopolitan*. Cynics claim he will suffer from this over exposure (too long in the *Sun* perhaps), but George, like the weather, is a conversation piece. Expect him to host a chat show before the beginning of 1990.

With all the bending of genders in the market place, most people gave up trying to distinguish between the girls and the boys. Paul Weller, the **Style Council** savant, when asked if he thought George's pal Marilyn was pretty, replied: "No, he looks like a bricklayer".

Agit pop made a late comeback with **The Redskins** and **The Three Johns** popping up here and there with Paul Weller (again) ready to comment that his peers were merely preaching to the converted.

Sade and **Alison Moyet** kept their heads screwed on and sold a lot of records to boutiques and to people with coffee tables, while those sated with the whole pop process could have opted for a spot of breaking, contorting themselves to the clubs' hit lists of electro and hip hop, or pretending to be *au fait* with the "new jazz" – whatever that was. The Sheffield band **Floy Joy** may provide a definition soon. **Everything But The Girl** and **Working Week** made use of Latin influences.

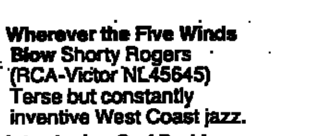
New American bands resumed normal service after a delay of 10 years; British clubs throbbed to the unpretentious, energetic punk of **Jason and the Scorchers**, **R.E.M.** and **Violent Femmes**. The British sense of superiority was further undone by the rising stars of Australian *music, the* **Triffids** *and the* **Moodists**.

Scottish bands were in the thick of it again; **Lloyd Cole and the Commotions** and **Aztec Camera** both deserve a mention – articulate, exciting outfits who kept the folk/troubadour candle burning.

The most enduring memory of the year came early, at the ICA's Big Brother week when the German troupe **Einsturzende Neubaten** constructed their sheet metal music before a startled audience. Perhaps because of their chain-saws, Neubaten remain the only metal band who give a performance where one can actually smell the instruments. An awesome experience that George Orwell probably foresaw, but forebore to mention.

Rock and Jazz listings p16

Which records were the biggest hits with Saturday's music critics in 1984? From swing to soul and film scores, we report the results . . .





Classical and Jazz by Max Harrison

1. **Complete Pacific Jazz Small Group Recordings of Art Pepper** (Mosaic MR3-105, 3 LPs)
   Pepper's lyrical intensity in small and medium-sized contexts.
2. **Pure Genius** Art Tatum (Affinity AFD118, 2 LPs)
   Early and mid-period work by the greatest jazz pianist.
3. **Kansas City Revisited** Bob Brookmeyer (United Artists 5008)
   Sophisticated recollections of Mid-Western jazz.
4. **Katanga** Curtis Amy/Dupree Bolton (Affinity AFF128)
   Features Dupree Bolton, one of jazz's best, and least recorded, trumpeters.
5. **Paris Concert Vol 2** Bill Evans (Elektra Musician 960311-1)
   Cool, quiet and very beautiful piano improvisations from 1979.
6. **Live in Europe 1961** Jimmy Giuffre Trio (Raretone 5018FC)
   Intent pastel tones, an algebraic sense of form...
7. **Wherever the Five Winds Blow** Shorty Rogers (RCA-Victor NL45645)
   Terse but constantly inventive West Coast jazz.
8. **Introducing Carl Perkins** (Boplicity BOP8)
   More fine piano – the hitherto very rare Dootone album.
9. **The Formative Years 1927-34** Benny Goodman (Decca RAL508)
   Enlightening anthology from before he was King of Swing.
10. **Strictly for Our Friends** Ganelin Trio (Leo LR120)
    More free jazz from from – would you believe? – Russia.

Rock and Jazz by Richard Williams

1. **Once Upon a Time in America** Ennio Morricone (Mercury MERH 45)
   Dreams and regret tussle for air in this ravishing suite by a composer whose work is none the worse for its funtional origin.
2. **St Thomas** Sonny Rollins (Dragon DRLP 73)
   At this Swedish concert in 1959, with keen-eared support from bass and drums, the master tenor saxophonist was at his most fertile and compelling.
3. **Cry To Me** Solomon Burke (Charly CRB 1075)
   Imperfectly compiled but still essential anthology of intense soul sermons, including the definitive version of Dylan's "Maggie's Farm".
4. **Alchemy** Dire Straights (Vertigo VERY 11)
   A gripping summary of the career of a great rock band, with guitar solos of unexampled melodic value.
5. **Jumpin' In** Dave Holland (ECM 1269)
   A vivacious cocktail of old and new, Holland's quintet is jazz's most likeable new group.
6. **Frank Sinatra Sings for Only the Lonely** (Capitol ED 26-0139-1)
   Nelson Riddle at his most inspired sets The Voice (in its 1958 prime) within a dozen superlative ballads. No ring-a-ding rhetoric in this masterpiece.
7. **Jump Cut Man Jumping** (Cocteau JC5)
   Almost every current concern, from systems music to salsa, put into the blender and mixed to a satisfying consistency, with a variety of piquant aftertastes.
8. **The Complete Blue Note and Pacific Jazz Recordings of Clifford Brown** (Mosaic MR5-104)
   Five records, with scholarly annotation, devoted to the magical trumpeter's 1953-4 output, including a Birdland session with Art Blakey and a luminous West Coast date with arrangements by Jack Montrose.
9. **Rumble Fish** Stewart Copeland (A&M AMLX 64983)
   Copeland responds to Coppola's celluloid chiaroscuro with a film score of similarly poetic *instrumental visions, haunted* by the ghost of rockabilly.
10. **Where The Girls Are!** (Kent 016)
    Glorious collection of girl-group obscurities from the halcyon early 1960s, exquisite meditations – by the Charmettes, the Sapphires, the Bon-Bons and others – on the theme of the teenage crush.

Rock by Max Bell

1. **Welcome To The Pleasuredome** Frankie Goes To Hollywood (ZTT 1Q1)
   Mock *fin de siéle* outrage, classic dancefloor singles and enough well orchestrated mayhem to last a teeny-bop lifetime.
2. **The Smiths** (Rough 61)
   The Rolling Stones, Oscar Wilde, the Moors Murders, *Saturday Night and Sunday Morning* all rolled into one convenient, soluble package.
3. **Neville-ization** Neville Brothers (BT 1031)
   Classic New Orleans funk that needs no explanation other than "Dance to the music".
4. **Some Great Reward** Depeche Mode (Stumm 19)
   Basildon boys grow up and discover Sade, Masoch and Kraftwerk. The pop beat is their own.
5. **Reckoning** REM (IRSA 7045)
   Good young Georgia outfit cast a melodic spell and weave enigmatic shapes.
6. **Big Bam Boom** Hall & Oates *(PC 85309)*
   The acceptable face of American FM radio from the highly tuned blue eyed soulsters.
7. **History, Mystery, Prophecy** Lee Perry (Seez 53)
   Masterful Ja producer almost at his crazy best.
8. **Drifters** True West (Zong 004)
   Magnetic, trippy guitar band who are revitalizing West Coast rock with the aid of Rain Parade, Long Ryders and others.
9. **Spoonful** John Hammond (Ed 129)
   Welcome re-release of Hammond Jnr's 1960s material shows that white boys can occasionally sing and even play the blues.
10. **Purple Rain** Prince (WEA 925 110-1)
    Great record, shame about the movie. Prince uses every cliché in the book plus a few that have still to be invented.

CHESS

Gripping art of constriction

It was good to see English players well to the fore in this year's Regency Masters tournament which was held at Ramsgate earlier this month. The tournament was a strong one including no less than four international grandmasters and 14 international masters. It is true that none of the grandmasters, Forintos and Lengyel (Hungary), Mednis and Shamkovich (United States) were particularly formidable, but the general level was quite high and strong.

Four players tied for first place with 6½ points: Carlier (The Netherlands), Forintos (Hungary), Crooten (The Netherlands) and Martin (England); Hebden (England), Hebert (Canada), Knoppert (The Netherlands) and Povah (England) scored 6 and there was a tie for the next place between Blees and Peelen (The Netherlands) and Mednis (United States) with 5½; next, all with 5, came Ady and Dunnington (England), Cuijpers, Hartoch and Janssen (The Netherlands), King and Littlewood (England), Ravikumar (India), Solomon (Australia) and grandmaster Shamkovich (United States).

Here, from round 9, is a fine and most unusual example of the art of constriction achieved by the Canadian master Hébert (with some unwitting collaboration by his adversary).

White: J. Hébert. Black: J. Ady. English opening.

1 P-QB4 N-KB3 2 N-QB3 P-KN3
3 P-KN3 B-N2

The great drawback of such symmetrical systems of defence is that they allow White to gain full control of the long white diagonal and therefore in no way impede White's plans. It would be better to try for a counter-attack by playing 3 . . . P-Q4, here.

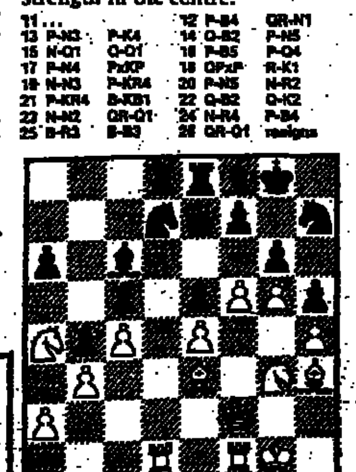
3 ... 4 B-N2 0-0
5 P-Q3 P-B3 6 P-K4

White profits from Black's spiritless defence to gain full command of the central white squares. The strategic battle is already decided in White's favour.

6 ... P-Q3
7 KN-K2 P-QR3 8 P-KR3 P-QN4
9 B-K3 B-N2 10 0-0 QN-Q2
11 R-B1 Q-R4

A decentralizing move that makes matters much worse; simply, P-K4 would have given him some much needed strength in the centre.

11 ... 12 P-B4 QR-N1
13 P-N3 P-K4 14 Q-B2 P-N5
15 N-Q1 Q-Q1 16 P-B5 P-Q4
17 P-N4 PxKP 18 QPxP R-K1
19 N-N3 P-KR4 20 P-N5 N-R2
21 P-KR4 B-KB1 22 Q-B2 Q-K2
23 N-B2 QR-Q1 24 N-R4 P-B4
25 B-R3 B-B3 26 QR-Q1 resigns



Remarkably, White has established such a strong hold on the position that Black has no reply to the threatened P-B6 when the Queen cannot escape capture.

Hopes at Hastings



Formidable form: Viktor Kupreichik, grandmaster

Andrew Martin and John Hebden now have a further chance to increase their stature in international chess. These two Englishmen are international masters and both are competing in this year's Hastings premier tournament which takes place from today until January 13. It is a strong event and includes two formidable Soviet grandmasters in the shape of Kupreichik and Shveshnikov, so Martin and Hebden who represent English chess in the absence of the English grandmasters, none of whom are competing this time, will have an opportunity of obtaining at least the first norm of the grandmaster title if they do well in this historic congress.

Hastings has always prided itself on providing English players with the opportunity of meeting some of the world's leading grandmasters, but the tournament is now losing prestige in the international chess world, and its standing as one of the most important chess events is considerably impaired.

Harry Golombek



BRIDGE

Time to put the armchair critics on trial

Bridge is a much easier game in the analyst's armchair than at the table. But even with the benefit of hindsight and a look at all four hands, the critics' comments are sometimes unjust.

This was board 18 of the women's final of the 1984 World Olympiad, between the United States and Britain.

North-South game. Dealer East.

	North	
	♠ J 10 5 ♡ 7 5 2 ♢ A Q 10 ♣ K Q 6 2	
West ♠ K 9 ♡ K Q 8 4 ♢ J 7 6 3 2 ♣ J 4		**East** ♠ 7 3 ♡ 9 6 3 ♢ 9 5 4 ♣ 10 8 7 5 3
	South ♠ A Q 8 6 4 2 ♡ A J 10 ♢ K 8 ♣ A 9	

In the open room, the British pair finished in six no trumps – a contract which, after West had found the killing heart lead, depended on the spade finesse.

Jacqui Mitchell and Gail Moss, for the US, reached six spades, an admittedly better contract because, even on a heart lead, declarer can reasonably hope to discard her hearts before tackling spades.

Sandra Landy (West) led the ♡K, which Moss won. Three rounds of diamonds provided one heart discard, but Landy ruffed the third round of clubs with the ♠9, while declarer disposed of her last heart. "Surprisingly", the offical bulletin comments, "West continued with a diamond, giving Moss a useless ruff and discard. But why, Moss wondered, did West play a diamond instead of the more likely heart?

"Perhaps West was hoping for an uppercut of some sort to promote a trump trick. But what trump could West possibly have? Only the King. So Moss played the ♠A, felling the ♠K, to make her slam."

I don't wish to subtract from the merits of Gail Moss's play, but I must spring to Sandra Landy's defence. The implication *in the above account is* that Sandra Landy's play of a diamond rather than a heart made declarer's life easier.

The truth is precisely the reverse. Moss would be forced to ruff a heart continuation. Locked in her hand, she would have no option but to cash the ♠A and hope for the best. Sandra foresaw this and at least gave declarer a chance to go wrong.

The next accused is Bob Hamman, undoubtedly one of the best dummy players in the world. In his case, I am going to urge you to find my client not guilty, but feel sure that you will at worst return a verdict of not proven.

USA v Sweden. 1984 Olympiad, Round Robin: Love all, Dealer East.

	North	
	♠ — ♡ Q J 9 5 ♢ A 10 7 6 4 ♣ K 10 9 7	
West ♠ K Q J 9 4 ♡ K ♢ Q J 5 ♣ Q 6 3 2		**East** ♠ A 8 7 6 5 3 2 ♡ A 4 ♢ 8 ♣ 8 5 4
	South ♠ 10 ♡ 10 8 7 6 3 2 ♢ K 9 3 2 ♣ A J	

W Sundelin	N Wolff	E Flodquist	S Hamman
–	–	2♢(1)	No
2♡(2)	No	2♠(3)	3♡(4)
4♠	5♡	Double	No
No	No	–	–

(1) The multi-coloured two diamonds, usually a weak two bid in either hearts or spades.
(2) The standard response. Naturally, Sundelin expects his partner to hold hearts.
(3) Showing a weak two bid in spades.
(4) A brave bid indeed. Notice that if Hamman had passed, North South would have been shut out of the action.

Sundelin led the ♠K, which Hamman ruffed in dummy, and played a trump. Sundelin had an awkward choice at trick three, but found the best *continuation of a club*. Now, as the "prosecution" rightly points out, Hamman can make his contract by eliminating East's minor cards before putting him on play with the ♡A.

East, neatly denuded of everything except spades, is forced to give a ruff and discard and the contract. Lovely stuff, but was it necessary?

"Come on Bob, what happened?" his critic enquires. I am equally curious.

Presumably, although we are not told, Hamman cashed the ♣A and, culpably according to the commentator, put East on play with the ♡A without first extracting his diamond. What would be the effect?

Flodquist exits happily with his diamond. True, but all Hamman has to do is to win the diamond in hand, cross to dummy with a trump and cash his ♣K. When he runs the trumps Sundelin is squeezed in the minors.

Obviously Hamman did not play like that. Why? At the table the problem is not so simple. In my submission, Hamman's analysis would be directed to the distribution, in particular the distribution of the spades and diamonds. A weak two bid normally shows a six card suit. Flodquist's bid with seven spades and an outside ace would horrify most experts.

So place Flodquist (East) with six spades and two hearts. That leaves him with five cards in the minors. West, from his switch, is likely to have the club length. Provided West has at least four clubs, success is assured. East must have either three clubs and two diamonds (in which case there is no problem because the diamonds break) or two clubs and three diamonds.

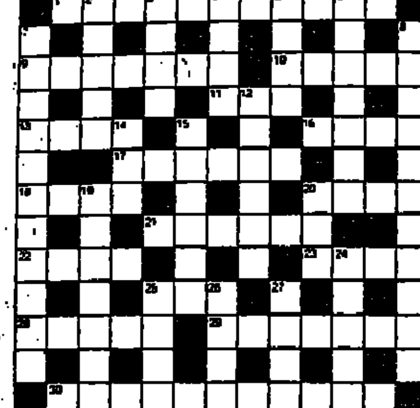
In the latter case he will be forced to open up the diamonds, *and even if he has ♢QJx* his trick will disappear. If that had been the position, it would have been fatal for Hamman to release the diamond ace from dummy.

Hamman played the hand correctly, but was understandably misled by Flodquists's unorthodox bid. Grandstand jockeys and armchair critics are *fallible judges*.

Jeremy Flint

CONCISE CROSSWORD (No 531)

Prizes of the Collins Thesaurus will be given for the first two correct solutions opened on Thursday, January 3, 1985. Entries should be addressed to The Times Concise Crossword Competition, 12 Coley Street, London WC99 9YT. The winners and solution will be announced on Saturday, January 5, 1985.



ACROSS
1 Eternal (11)
9 Earache (7)
10 More severe (5)
11 Prohibit (3)
12 Lowers head (4)
16 Courtyard (4)
17 Giantess (6)
18 Midday (4)
20 Indian ox (4)
21 Limited (6)
22 Exchange (4)
23 Foolish (4)
25 Howl (3)
28 Smell (5)
29 Elucidate (7)
30 Chambered fruit (11)

DOWN
2 Delicacy (5)
3 Fury (4)
4 Jezebel's husband (4)
5 Urban area (4)
6 Nourish (7)
7 Sunrise planet (7,4)
8 Recruit seeking (4,7)
12 Rappel (6)
14 Male offspring (3)
15 Three horse vehicle (6)
19 Golden sherry (7)
20 Last letter (3)
24 Anticipate (5)
25 Large bundle (4)
26 12 months (4)
27 Rotate (4)

SOLUTION TO No 530
ACROSS: 1 Plover 5 Bigger 8 Eel 9 Robust 10 Invite 11 Wait 12 Nazarene 14 Smudge 17 Aerate 19 Standard 22 Face 24 Grotto 25 Brazil 26 Pal 27 Assert 28 Exempt
DOWN: 2 Loofa 3 Vaulted 4 Retinue 5 Blitz 6 Giver 7 Extinct 13 Aye 15 Mithras 16 God 17 Audible 18 Reflate 20 Nitre 21 Adopt 23 Chimp

Name ....

Address ....

....



Calendar of world sport 1985



Picture by Chris Smith

Splashing out: Adrian Moorhouse, British, European and Commonwealth 100m breaststroke champion, had a disappointing Olympics. Will he retain his European title at Sofia in August?

ANGLING

May 12-18: Sealink coarse fishing festival, Erne, Co Fermanagh
May 26: International fly fishing spring competition, Chew Valley Lake
July 20: National Federation of Anglers first division competition, Leeds and Liverpool Canal
August 17: National Federation of Anglers second division competition, River Witham
Aug 26: International fly fishing autumn competition, Loch of Harray, Orkney
Sept 7: Confederation of English Fly Fishers' competition, Grafham
Sept 11/12: Benson and Hedges fly fishing competition, Bewl Bridge
Sept 14: National Federation of Anglers third division competition, Thames, Oxford
Sept 28: National Federation of Anglers fourth division competition, Trent, Newark
October 12: National Federation of Anglers fifth division competition, Trent, Newark
Oct 26/27: Home international boat sea angling championship, Ayr

ARCHERY

Mar 31: National indoor championships, RAF Cosford, Wolverhampton
May 25/26: All British and open field archery championships, Rhondda
June 15/16: UK Masters tournament, Leamington Spa
June 26/28: Grand national archery meeting (inaugurated 1844), Worcester College, Oxford
July 6/7: Junior FITA mail match and junior national championships, Leamington Spa
July 27: National clout championships Leamington Spa
Aug 10/11: British target championships, Leamington Spa



ATHLETICS

Jan 5: Mallusk international cross country, Belfast
Jan 11/12: Cosford indoor games, Cosford
Jan 18/19: World indoor games, Paris
Jan 19: Men's and women's inter-counties cross-country, Nottingham
Jan 25/26: AAA/WAAA indoor championships, Cosford
Jan 26: N Ireland cross country championships, Bangor
Feb 3: Women's European clubs cross country, Madrid
Feb 3: Men's European clubs cross country, Algarve, Portugal
Feb 9: English area cross country championships
Feb 16: English women's cross country championships, Birkenhead
Feb 16: Welsh women's cross country championships, Cardiff
Feb 22: Interservices cross country championships, Aldershot
Feb 23: Scottish men's cross country Championships, Edinburgh
Feb 24: Scottish women's cross country championships, Rosyth
Feb 24: Welsh AAA/WAAA indoor meeting, St Athan
Mar 2/3: European indoor championships, Athens
Mar 3: English men's cross country championships, Milton Keynes
Mar 9: England v USA indoor, Cosford
Mar 15-17: AAA/WAAA junior indoor championships, Cosford
Mar 23: English schools cross country championships, Norwich
Mar 24: Pearl half-marathon, Fleet
Mar 24: World cross country championships, Lisbon
Mar 31: Pearl half-marathon, Thamesmead
Apr 13: Welsh AAA/WAAA indoor championships, St Athan
Apr 13: Pearl half-marathon, Belfast
Apr 13/14: World Marathon Cup, Hiroshima
Apr 21: London Marathon
Apr 27: AAA 12 Stage road relay, Sutton Coldfield
May 4: English schools race walking championships, Keswick
May 5: Pearl half-marathon, Liverpool
May 5: Italy v GB & NI v Spain v France junior walks, Italy
May 5/6: Universities championships, Crystal Palace
May 6: Sponichi international meeting, Tokyo
May 19: Scottish Women's East/West meeting, Meadowbank
May 25: Scottish Cup semi-final, Coatbridge
May 25/26: United Kingdom championships, Antrim
June 1: Northern WAAA championships, Stretford
June 1 or 2: Midland WAAA championships, Perry Barr
June 1/2: Southern WAAA championships, Hendon
June 2: Women's European club championships, Zurich
June 8: Scotland v England v Yugoslavia v Belgium women Meadowbank (prov)
June 8/9: Denmark v GB & NI v Canada combined events, Jutland
June 8/9: Men's European Club championships, Haringey
June 15/16: Sweden v GB & NI v Norway walks, Boraas
June 21: England v USA men, Birmingham
June 21-23: Scottish AAA/WAAA championships, Meadowbank
June 22/23: Welsh championships, Cwmbran
June 24: Ulster Games, Belfast
June 27: Oslo Games, Oslo
June 29: GB & NI v France v Czechoslovakia, Gateshead
June 30: Fanny Blankers-Koen Games, Hengelo, Netherlands
July 6/7: GB & NI v East Germany v Japan, Birmingham
July 9: Cork City Sports, Cork
July 10: Inter-Services championships, Aldershot
July 12: Paris international meeting, Paris
July 12/13: English schools championships, Hull
July 13/14: AAA championships, Crystal Palace
July 13/14: Hungary v England v Austria v Greece women, Budapest
July 20: British schools international, Ireland
July 20/21: AAA decathlon, Birmingham
July 20 or 21: Welsh Games, Swansea
July 23: Edinburgh Games, Edinburgh
July 26/27: Women's AAA championships, Birmingham
Aug 3: Women's under-23 international, Middlesbrough
Aug 3 or 10: Celtic women's International, Swansea
Aug 3/4: AAA under-20 championships, Birmingham
Aug 3/4: Scotland v England v Ireland decathlon, Grangemouth
Aug 10: President's Trophy Meeting, Belfast
Aug 11: Pearl half-marathon final, Birmingham
Aug 17: Bell's junior international, Meadowbank
Aug 17/18: European Cup, Moscow
Aug 17/18: France v GB & NI v Belgium 'B' match, France
Aug 26: England v Hungary v Poland v Czechoslovakia v Cuba field events match, Crystal Palace
Aug 28: Koblenz Meeting, Koblenz, West Germany
Aug 31: GRE Cup Final, Hendon (prov)
Aug 31/Sep 1: Eight Nations meeting, Tel Aviv
Sept 4: Rieti meeting, Italy
Sept 7: Norway v Ireland, Norway
Sept 7/8: Women's European Cup combined events, Krefeld, West Germany
Sept 7/8: Men's European Cup combined events, Arles
Sept 8: Nanjing International Meeting, Nanjing, China
Sept 14: England v Romania Women, Crystal Palace
Sept 14: Seoul International Meeting, Seoul, S Korea
Sept 15: European Marathon Cup, Rome
Sept 28/29: World race-walking championships, Douglas, I-O-M
Sept 29: Glasgow Marathon
Oct 4-6: World Cup, Canberra
Nov 16: Open indoor meeting, Cosford
Nov 24: International cross country, Gateshead
Dec 7: Open indoor meeting, Cosford
● Grand Prix (see panel)

BADMINTON

Jan 31: England Select v Scotland
Feb 9: Dutch Open
Feb 9: England under-23 v Holland
Feb 18-23: Essex championships, Redbridge
Mar 1-3: National junior championships
Mar 2: German Open, Dusseldorf
Mar 16: Swedish Open, Malmo
Mar 20-24: All-England, Wembley
Mar 27/28: England v Sweden v Denmark (under-23)
Apr 12-14: English national championships, Coventry



BASKETBALL

Jan 1: World invitation club championships, finals, Crystal Palace
Jan 7: Kellogg's Cup final, Royal Albert Hall, London
Feb 13: Switzerland v England, World Cup: Bellinzona
Feb 24: Anglo Scottish Cup final, first leg
Mar 3: Anglo Scottish Cup final, second leg
Mar 30/31: National championship play-offs, Wembley
Nov 21: World Cup: Czechoslovakia v England
Nov 28: World Cup: England v Israel

BILLIARDS, SNOOKER

Jan 27-Feb 3: Benson and Hedges Masters snooker tournament, Wembley Conference Centre
Feb 17-Mar 3: Dulux English Open snooker championship, Assembly Rooms, Derby
Mar 11-17: World Professional billiards championship, Hatton Garden (prov)
● **Apr 12-28:** Embassy world professional snooker championship, Sheffield
The leading event in the snooker calendar will contested over 17 days by the top players from the four home countries, as well as Canada, Australia and South Africa, with Steve Davis trying to win the title for the third year running. Tickets from the Crucible Theatre, Sheffield (0742 79922).
Sept 20-Oct 6: Jameson Whiskey international snooker tournament, Newcastle (prov)
Oct 19-27: Rothmans Grand Prix snooker tournament, Reading (prov)
Nov 16-Dec 1: Coral UK snooker championship, Preston (prov)

BOBSLEIGH, TOBOGGAN

Jan 1-6: Nations Cup bobsleigh, Igls, Austria
Jan 14-27: World bobsleigh championship, Cervinia, Italy
Jan 21-Feb 3: Junior European bobsleigh championships, Igls, Austria
● **Feb 2-10:** Cresta Run centenary gala week, St Moritz
The St Moritz Tobogganing Club claims the Cresta to be unique, which might, to a greater or lesser extent, be said of every other toboggan run in the world, But no other can match the reputation of the Cresta, created by the British and still bearing strong British influence and participation. The highlight of the festivities will be the Grand National on Feb 9.
Feb 11-24: European bobsleigh championships, St Moritz.

BOWLS

Feb 5-10: World championship, Coatbridge.
Mar 5-8: Home international indoor series and British Isles championships, Swansea.
Mar 18-23: English indoor championship, Hartlepool.
May 31-June 2: Gateway Masters tournament, Worthing.
June 29-July 6: Women's home international series and British Isles championships, Edinburgh.
July 7-12: Man's home international series and British Isles championships, Worthing.
Aug 5-14: English women's championships, Leamington Spa.
Aug 11-13: English men's championships, Worthing.

BOXING

Professional
Jan 19: Colin Jones (Wales) v Don Curry (US), (world welterweight championship), National Exhibition Centre, Birmingham
Amateur
Jan 17: England v Scotland, Dundee
Feb 4: Young England v Young Scotland
Feb 11: Young England v Young Ireland, London
Mar 13: Scottish finals, Falkirk
Apr 3: English semi-finals, Gloucester
Apr 17: British semi-finals, Preston
May 3: National finals, Wembley
May 11: Junior semi-finals, Gloucester
May 16-18: Gaelic youth championship
May 24: Junior finals, Wembley
May 25-June 6: European senior championships, Hungary
Oct 2-7: Multi Nations TSC, East Germany
Oct 16-21: Young East Germany v Young England, Schwerin
Oct 22-28: East Germany v England, Rostock
Nov 29-Dec 6: Canada Cup Expo '85, Canada

CANOEING

Feb 23/24: International canoe polo championships, Crystal Palace
May 11/12: British open wild water racing championships, Bala
May 25/26: British racing open championships, Nottingham
June 6-9: Wild water world championships, Garmisch-Partenkirchen, W Germany
June 12-16: Slalom world championships, Augsburg
June 15/16: International regatta, Nottingham
July 25: International Marathon, River Tay, Scotland
July 25-28: Junior racing world, championships, Rome
Aug 15-18: Senior racing world championships, Mechelen, Belgium.
Oct 19/20: British slalom open championships, Llangollen
Oct 26/27: International slalom, Llangollen

CRICKET

World Championship of Cricket
Feb 17: Australia v England, Melbourne
Feb 19: NZ v West Indies, Sydney
Feb 20: India v Pakistan, Melbourne
Feb 23: NZ v Sri Lanka, Melbourne
Feb 24: Australia v Pakistan, Melbourne
Feb 26: England v India, Sydney
Feb 27: Sri Lanka v West Indies, Melbourne
Mar 2: England v Pakistan, Melbourne
Mar 3: Australia v India, Melbourne
Mar 5: First semi-final, Sydney
Mar 6: Second semi-final, Melbourne
Mar 9: Plate final, Sydney
Mar 10: Final, Melbourne
● The Ashes (see panel)
Other leading fixtures
Dec 30-Jan 3: Australia v West Indies, fifth Test, Sydney
Dec 31-Jan 5: India v England, third Test, Calcutta
Jan 6: World Series Cup between Australia, Sir Lanka and West Indies begins in Australia
Jan 7-10: South Zone v England XI, Hyderabad
Jan 12: New Zealand v Pakistan, one-day international, Napier
Jan 13-18: India v England, fourth Test, Madras
Jan 15: NZ v Pakistan, one-day international, Hamilton
Jan 18-22: NZ v Pakistan, first Test, Wellington
Jan 20: India v England, one-day international, Bangalore
Jan 23: India v England, one-day international, Nagpur
Jan 25-29: NZ v Pakistan, second Test, Auckland
Jan 27: India v England, one-day international, Chandigarh
Jan 31-Feb 5: India v England, fifth Test, Kanpur (prov)
Feb 6: World Series Cup, first final, Sydney
Feb 6: NZ v Pakistan, one-day international, Christchurch
Feb 9-14: NZ v Pakistan, third Test, Dunedin
Feb 10: World Series Cup, second final, Melbourne
Feb 12: World Series Cup, third final, Sydney (if required)
Feb 16: NZ v Pakistan, one-day international, Auckland
Mar 29-Apr 3: West Indies v New Zealand, first Test, Port of Spain (prov)
Apr 6-11: West Indies v New Zealand, second Test, Georgetown (prov)
Apr 20: English first-class season begins
Apr 24-26: MCC v Essex, Lord's
Apr 26-May 1: West Indies v New Zealand, third Test, Bridgetown (prov)
Apr 27: County championship begins
May 4: Benson and Hedges Cup begins
May 4-9: West Indies v New Zealand, fourth Test, Kingston (prov)
May 5: John Player League begins
June 5: Benson and Hedges Cup, quarter-finals
June 19: Benson and Hedges Cup, semi-finals
July 3: NatWest Trophy, first round
July 3-5: University match, Lord's
July 6: Eton v Harrow, Lord's
July 17: NatWest Trophy, secon round
July 20: Benson and Hedges Cup final, Lord's
Aug 7: NatWest Trophy, quarter-finals
Aug 21: NatWest Trophy, semi-finals
Aug 31: William Younger club competition final, Lord's
Sept 1: Samuel Whitbread village championship final, Lord's
Sept 7: NatWest Trophy final, Lord's
Sept 15: John Player League ends
Sept 17: County championship ends

CROQUET

May 11/12: Golf croquet championship, Phyllis Court
May 25/26: Great Britain v USA, Nottingham
May 30-June 2: County championship, Southwick
May 31-June 2: Great Britain v USA, Hurlingham and Roehampton
June 15/16: Home internationals, Budleigh, Devon
June 17-22: Men's and women's championships, Cheltenham
July 13-20: Open championship, Hurlingham
Sept 3-7: President's Cup, Hurlingham
Sept 7/8: All England finals, various venues
Sept 28/29: All England final, Wrest Park.



CYCLING

Feb 3: British cyclo-cross championships, Birmingham
Feb 16/17: World cyclo-cross championships, Munich
Mar 7-13: Tirreno-Adriatico, Italy
Mar 31: GP Pernod, Beaconsfield, Buckinghamshire
Apr 7: Tour of Flanders, Belgium
Apr 23-May 12: Tour of Spain
May 1: The Grand Prix of Frankfurt, West Germany
May 5: Championship of Zurich, Switzerland
May 17-June 9: Tour of Italy
May 25: Bordeaux-Paris, France
● **May 26-June 8:** Milk Race, Bournemouth-Birmingham
The 28th edition of the Dairy Council sponsored round Britain race promises a showdown between the Soviet Union, winners in 1983, and the British professionals. Starting in Bournemouth on May 26, the 1164-mile route comprises 12 stages, five of which will end on town centre circuits before the finish in Birmingham on June 8.
June 21: Manx International, Douglas, Isle of Man
June 23: British professional road race championship, Douglas, Isle of Man
June 28-July 21: Tour de France, Vannes-Paris
July 20-28: Harrogate Festival of Cycling; world junior championships, West Germany
July 28: British amateur road race championship, Harrogate
Aug 2-10: British track championships, Leicester
Aug 4-18: Coors Classic, San Francisco-Denver
Aug 23-27: World track championships, Bassano del Grappa, Italy
Aug 28-Sept 1: World road race championships, Montello, Italy
Sept 22: GP des Nations, Cannes, France
Sept 24-29: Tour of Ireland
Oct 12: Tour of Lombardy, Milan, Italy

EQUESTRIANISM

April 17-21: Show jumping World Cup final, Berlin
April 18-21: Badminton horse trials, Gloucestershire
April 30-May5: Rome Nations Cup, Italy
May 9-12: Windsor Horse Show, Berkshire
May 11-15: Madrid Nations Cup, Spain
May 24-26: Carriage driving championships, Scone Palace, Perthshire
May 30-June 2: Hickstead Nations Cup meeting, Sussex
May 31-June 2: Goodwood International dressage meeting, Sussex
June 13-16: Royal International Horse Show, Birmingham
July 1-4: The Royal Show, Stoneleigh, Warwickshire
July 31-Aug 4: European show jumping championships, Dinard, France
Aug 6-10: Dublin Horse Show
Aug 9-11: European dressage championships, Copenhagen, Denmark
Aug 23-25: Hickstead Jumping Derby, Sussex
Aug 25: Scottish championships, Thirlestane Castle, Lauder
Aug 30-Sept 1: Junior European three-day-event championships, Rotherfield Park, Hampshire
Aug 31/Sept 1: International young riders dressage championships, Goodwood, Sussex
Sept 5-8: European three-day-event championships, Burghley, Lincolnshire
Sept 20/21: National dressage championships, Goodwood, Sussex
● **Oct 7-12:** Horse of the Year Show, Wembley
The Horse of the Year Show is the grand finale of the summer season at which every type of horse – from Shetland to shire – is represented. Every horse competing has qualified to be there, 50 victory at Wembley, whether it be in the showing, hunter or show jumping classes, is the highest accolade at national competition level. Tickets obtainable from: the box office, Wembley Arena, Wembley, Middlesex (01-902 1234).
Dec 13-17: Olympia Horse Show, London

FENCING

All events at de Beaumont Centre, West Kensington, London
Jan 5/6: Under-20 women's foil championships
Jan 26/27: Men's épee championship
Feb 2/3 Women's foil international
Feb 8-10: Men's foil international
Mar 9/10: Challenge Martini international epée and Matches
May 4/5: Miller Hallett international Epée
May 18/19: Men's and women's foil championships
June 8/9: Epée Team Championships
June 15/16: Sabre individual and team championship
Dec 14/15: Men's foil team championships

FOOTBALL

Jan 5: FA Cup, third round
Jan 16: Milk Cup, fifth round
Jan 26: FA Cup, fourth round
Feb 6: Milk Cup semi-final, first leg
Feb 13: Milk Cup semi-final, second leg
Feb 16: FA Cup, fifth round
Mar 6: European cups, quarter-finals, first leg
Mar 9: FA Cup, sixth round
Mar 20: European cups, quarter-finals, second leg
Mar 24: Milk Cup final, Wembley
Mar 26: England v Republic of Ireland, Wembley
Apr 10: European cups, semi-finals, first leg
Apr 13: FA Cup semi-finals
Apr 24: European cups, semi-finals, second leg
May 8: UEFA Cup final, first leg
May 15: European Cup Winners' Cup final, Rotterdam
● **May 18:** FA Cup final, Wembley
The traditional showpiece of the English season and the only fixture guaranteed to take place in front of a capacity crowd. Everton are the current holders of the oldest football trophy in the world, having defeated Watford in the 1984 final; they start their defence against Leeds United on Jan 5. Tickets are available only through clubs; the bulk are allocated to the two finalists.
May 22: UEFA Cup final, second leg
May 29: European Cup final, Brussels
June 6: Italy v England, Mexico City
June 9: Mexico v England, Mexico City
June 12: West Germany v England, Mexico City
● World Cup (see panel)

A grand new circuit

The athletics highlight of 1985 is the first international Grand Prix, to be contested over 16 meetings in Western and Eastern Europe and the United States. The significance of the venture is that the sports agencies and marketing groups which have such a hold on, for example, tennis, have been short circuited by the International Amateur Athletic Federation, the sport's governing body, which is running the Grand Prix with sponsorship from Mobil.

The IAAF has won another considerable victory in persuading the Eastern block countries, to whom overt professionalism is anathema, to join in. Three of this season's meetings will be in socialist countries. The trick has been to institute "athletics funds", by which an athlete's earnings are, theoretically, paid to the national federation, to be drawn back out again for "coaching, housing, education, travel etc".

The biggest independent meetings, most of which take place in Western Europe, have been incorporated on the Grand Prix circuit, thereby also forging a successful closer link between the promoters and the IAAF. The standing of British officials is quite as high as that of British athletes, for it is an achievement to have secured two of the 16 meetings – the Peugeot Talbot Games on July 19, and the IAC/Coca Cola Meeting on August 2, both at Crystal Palace.

Athletes will still be paid their normal "participation money" at these meetings, but the points system and the potential prize money at the end of the season will give the sport a continuity that it has lacked. However, with the top prize on the circuit only $25,000 – the sort of money that Carl Lewis can command for a single meeting – it remains to be seen whether the top performers will be prepared to fulfil all the requirements for making the final.

The world's top 50 athletes in each event, according to ranking lists (which will be kept updated) will be eligible to compete. In odd-numbered years, starting this year, the events will be: Men: 200m, 400m, 1,500m, 110m hurdles, pole vault, long jump, discus, javlin; women: 100m, 800m, 3,000m, high jump, shot put, long jump. Sixteen in all, with nine for men. In even-numbered years, the events will be: men: 100m, 800m, 10,000m, 3,000m steeplechase, 400m hurdles, high jump, triple jump, shot put, hammer; women: 200m, 400m, 1,500m, 5,000m, 100m hurdles, discus, javelin.

Points will be awarded from nine for first in each event, seven points for second down to one point for eighth. There will be an additional six points for breaking a world record, and three points for equalling it. In the Grand Prix final, the scoring will be double, including the world records. The points from a maximum of five meetings on the circuit can be accumulated by any one athlete. And at the end of the series, the eight athletes in each event with the highest number of points will be invited to the final. Qualified athletes can compete in more than one event, but only the points from the five best performances will count towards the overall Grand Prix prize. Individual event prize money will be: 1 $10,000, 2 $7,000, 3 $4,000, 4 $3,000.

British success is most likely to come in the traditionally strong middle distance events, such as the 1,500m where eight athletes (including Sebastian Coe and Steve Cram) are ranked in the top 50 and the 5,000m, with ten in the top 50.

Grand Prix fixtures:
May 25: Bruce Jenner Classic, San José, California
June 1: Steve Prefontaine Classic, Eugene, Oregon
June 8: Znamensky Memorial, Moscow
June 22: Memorial Rosciky, Prague
July 2: DN Galan, Stockholm
July 4: World Games, Helsinki
July 16: Nikaia, Nice
July 19: Peugeot Talbot games, Crystal Palace
July 27: Bislett Games, Oslo
Aug 2: IAC/Coca Cola meeting, Crystal Palace
Aug 4: Grand Prix, Budapest
Aug 21: Weltklasse, Zurich
Aug 23: ISTAF, West Berlin
Aug 25: Weltklasse, Cologne
Aug 30: Ivo Van Damme Memorial, Brussels
Sep 7: Grand Prix final, Rome

GLIDING

June 15-23: National open class championships, Lasham Airfield, Alton
July 13-21: National 15 metre championships, Booker Airfield, near Marlow, Buckinghamshire
July 27-Aug 11: World championships, Rieti, Italy
Aug 10-18: National standard class championships, Husbands Bosworth Airfield, near Lutterworth, Leicestershire

GOLF

Mar 9: Berkhamsted Amateur Trophy, Berkhamsted
Mar 19-21: Avia women's foursomes, The Berkshire
Mar 25-29: Sunningdale foursomes, Sunningdale
Apr 11-14: US Masters, Augusta
Apr 25-28: Madrid Open, Madrid
May 2-5: Italian Open, Milan
May 4/5: Lytham Amateur Trophy, Royal Lytham & St Annes
May 9-12: Car Care Plan, Moortown, Leeds
May 16-19: Timex Open, Le Touquet, France
May 17-19: Brabazon Amateur Trophy, Seaton Carew
May 24-27: Whyte & Mackay PGA championship, Wentworth
May 30-June 2: Four Stars national pro-Celebrity, Moor Park
June 3-8: Amateur championship, Royal Dornoch
June 6-9: Dunhill British Masters, Woburn
June 13-16: Jersey Open, La Moye
June 13-16: US Open, Oakland Hills, Birmingham, Michigan
June 15/16: Berkshire Amateur Trophy, The Berkshire
June 20-23: Carrolls Irish Open Royal Dublin
June 26-30: European men's amateur team championship, Halmstad, Sweden
June 27-30: Monte Carlo Open, Mont Agel
July 4-7: French Open, St Germain en-Laye, Paris
● **July 18-21:** Open championship, Royal St. George's
Will it be Severiano Ballesteros or Tom Watson who wins the 114th Open Championship? The Spaniard and the American have dominated golf's prestige attraction in recent times. Ballesteros won in 1979 then regained the title at St Andrews last summer. Watson, winner in 1975, 1977, 1980, 1982 and 1983, seeks to equal Harry Vardon's record six wins. Coincidentally, the only new name to go on the trophy in the last six years was when the championship was last staged at Royal St George's – where it returns this summer – and America's Bill Rogers won. Ballesteros, however, won the PGA Championship on the Kent links in 1983 and Nick Faldo, chasing a first British win since Tony Jacklin in 1969, also triumphed there in 1980.
The Royal and Ancient Golf Club of St Andrews (Fife, KY16 9JD) offers discount season tickets at £30 until January 31; £33 from Feb 1 to May 31; before the price goes to £36. Other tickets: Daily: Sun, Mon – £1; Tues, Wed – £4; Thurs-Sun £9. Additional tickets: Reserved Stand (18th Green) Weekly Ticket – £35. Club Tent (access to private catering and bar facilities) – £25.
July 25-28: Dutch Open, Noordwijk
July 29-Aug 3: English amateur championship, Little Aston
Aug 1-4: Scandinavian Open, Stockholm
Aug 8-11: Glasgow Open, Haggs Castle
Aug 8-11: US PGA championship, Cherry Hills, Denver
Aug 15-18: Benson and Hedges International, Fulford, York
Aug 21/22: Walker Cup, Pine Valley, New Jersey
Aug 22-25: German Open, Bremen
Aug 29-Sept 1: Panasonic European open, Sunningdale
Sept 5-8: European Masters, Crans-sur-Sierre
Sept 13-15: Bell's Scotch Ryder Cup matches, The Belfry
Sept 19-22: Sanyo Open, El Prat, Barcelona
Sept 26-29: Suntory world match play championship, Wentworth
Oct 3-6: Lancome Trophy, St Nom la Breteche, Paris
Oct 24-27: Spanish Open, Vallromanas, Barcelona
Oct 31-Nov 3: Portuguese Open, Quinta do Lago, Algarve

GYMNASTICS

Apr 13: Daily Mirror champions all London
May 10/11: Women's European championships, Helsinki
June 1/2: Men's European championships, Oslo
Oct 10-13: Rhythmic gymnastics world championships, Valladolid, Spain
Nov 3-10: World championships, Montreal

HANDBALL

Feb 19-Mar 3: World championship, B group, men, Norway
Mar 9/10: English National Trophy final, first leg
Mar 16/17: English National Trophy, final, second leg; International Cup, Dublin
Apr 13/14: European Cup, finals, first legs
Apr 20/21: European Cup, finals, second legs
May 4/5: Scotland v England, Wishaw (prov)
June 8: British Cup finals, East Kilbride
Aug 16-18: Quadrangular international tournament, Birmingham (prov)
Oct 15-30: World championship, under-21, women
Nov 24: City of Leicester triangular tournament
Dec 1-15: World championship, under-21, men, Italy; world championship, B Group, women

HANG GLIDING

Mar 28-31: British League competition first round
Apr 12-15: British League competition second round
Apr 20-28: Blériot Cup, UK v France
May 10-13: British League competition third round
May 20-June 5: World championships, Austria
June 10-16: Lariano Triangle, Italy

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June 21-July 14: World cross-country championships, California
Aug 3-7: British League competition fourth round
Aug 17-25: US Masters
Aug 25-31: Czechoslovakian Open
Sept 6-9: British League final



HOCKEY

Jan 11/12: Home Counties indoor championship, Cardiff
Jan 11-13: European indoor cup, women, Crystal Palace
Feb 22-24: European indoor under-21 championship, Vienna
Mar 1: Indoor club championship finals: Crystal Palace
Mar 2: Wales v England, women Swansea
Mar 9: England v Scotland, women, Wembley
Mar 24: County championship final Willesden
Apr 13: Ireland v England, women, Dublin
Apr 21: Club championship final, Willesden
May 12: West Germany v England, men and women, Mulheim (Ruhr)
June 30-July 5: England tour of Australia
Aug 10-24: Junior World Cup, Vancouver
Aug 27-Sept 23: England tour of New Zealand and Australia, women
● **Oct 18-20:** *International quadrangular, Willesden*
The showpiece of the English hockey season to be held at the Willesden Stadium, Donnington Road, north London, and a prelude to the World Cup tournament at the same venue in October 1986. Inquiries for tickets to: The Hockey Association, 16 Upper Woburn Place, London WC1H OQD (01-387 9315)

ICE HOCKEY

Feb 22-Mar 1: World junior championships, group C, Antwerp
Mar 14-21: World championships, group C, Chamonix
Mar 21-31: World championships, group B Freiburg
Apr 17-May 3: World championships, group A, Prague
May 4/5: Heineken British championship finals Wembley

ICE SKATING

Jan 12/13: Women's European speed championships, Groningen, The Netherlands
Jan 26/27: Men's European speed championships, Eskilstuna, Sweden
Feb 4-9: European figure and dance championships, Göteborg
Feb 9/10: Women's world speed championships, Sarajevo
Feb 16/17: Men's world speed championships, Hamar, Norway
Feb 23/24: World sprint championships, Heerenveen, The Netherlands
Feb 28-Mar 1: British speed championships, Richmond
Mar 4-9: World figure and dance championships, Tokyo
Sept 24-26: St Ivel international, Richmond
Nov 15: British dance championship, Nottingham (prov)
Dec 3/4: British figure championships, Richmond (prov)

JUDO

Feb 9/10: West German Open championships for women
Feb 24: Intercontinental championships, Paris
Mar 15-17: Women's European championships, Sweden
Mar 29-31: West German Open championships for Men
Apr 13: British Open championships for Men, Crystal Palace
May 8-12: Senior Men's European championships, Norway
Jun 8/9: British Masters tournament, Aston Villa
Jul 6/7: National championships for men and women, Yorks and Humber
Sept 26-29: World championships for men, Seoul, South Korea
Oct 5: British Open championships for women, Crystal Palace
Nov 2/3: National under-16s individual championships for boys and girls, Crystal Palace
Dec 7: National trials for senior men and women, Crystal Palace
Dec 8: National trials for young men and young women, Crystal Palace



LACROSSE

Women
Feb 2/3: All England territorial championship (1st weekend), Hampton
Feb 16/17: All England territorial championship (2nd weekend), Berkhamsted
Mar 2: Wales v England, Monmouth
Mar 8: England v England reserves, Crystal Palace
Mar 9: Scotland v Wales, Scotland
Mar 16: England v Scotland, Motspur Park
Men
Feb 23: Senior flag final and minor flag final, Enfield
Mar 3: Yorkshire v South, Sheffield
Mar 10: Lancashire v South, Didsbury
Mar 17: Cheshire v Yorkshire, Stockport
Mar 24: Lancashire v Yorkshire, Didsbury
Mar 24: South v Cheshire, London
Mar 30: Lancashire v Cheshire, Rochdale

MODERN PENTATHLON

Apr 9-14: International meeting, Crystal Palace (prov)
Aug 3-6: Women's world championships, Montreal
July 26-28: National women's and junior championships, Wantage
Aug 18-21: World championships, men, Melbourne
Sept 14-18: Junior world championships, Yerevan, USSR
Sept 20-22: National championships, men, Milton Keynes



MOTOR CYCLING

Road Racing
Mar 10: British championship round one, Caldwell Park
Mar 23: South African Grand Prix, Kyalami
Apr 5: British championships round two, Brands Hatch
Apr 8: European championship round, Donington Park
May 5: Spanish Grand Prix, Jarama
May 19: German Grand Prix, Hockenheim
May 26: Italian Grand Prix, Mugello
June 1: Formula One TT, Isle of Man
June 2: Austrian Grand Prix, Salzburgring
June 16: Yugoslavian Grand Prix, Rijeka
June 23: British championship round three, Donington Park
July 7: Belgian Grand Prix, Spa-Francorchamps
July 21: French Grand Prix, Le Mans
Aug 4: British Grand Prix, Silverstone
Aug 10/11: Swedish Grand Prix, Anderstorp
Aug 25/26: British championship final, Oulton Park
Sept 1: San Marino Grand Prix, Imola

MOTOR RACING

Formula One world championship
Apr 7: Brazilian Grand Prix, Rio de Janeiro
Apr 21: Portuguese Grand Prix, Estoril
May 5: San Marino Grand Prix, Imola, Italy
June 2: Belgian Grand Prix, Spa-Francorchamps
June 16: Canadian Grand Prix, Montreal
June 23: Detroit Grand Prix
July 7: French Grand Prix, Le Castellet
● **July 21:** British Grand Prix, Silverstone. **The ninth of the season's 16 world championship races, staged on one of the world's fastest courses. Watch Niki Lauda defend his third world title with McLaren and teammate Alain Prost strive for his first. Nigel Mansell (Williams-Honda) and Derek Warwick (Renault) will lead the British challenge.**
Aug 4: German Grand Prix, Nurburgring or Hockenheim
Aug 18: Austrian Grand Prix, Zeltweg
Aug 25: Dutch Grand Prix, Zandvoort
Sept 8: Italian Grand Prix, Monza
Sept 29: New York Grand Prix
Oct 13: Grand Prix of Europe, Rome
Oct 26: South African Grand Prix, Kyalami
Nov 3: Australian Grand Prix, Adelaide

June 16/17: Le Mans 24 Hours

MOTOR RALLYING

World Rally championship
Feb 15-17: Swedish rally
Mar 5-10: Portuguese rally
Apr 4-8: Safari rally, East Africa
May 4-6: French rally
June 1-7: Acropolis rally, Greece
June 27-July 3: New Zealand rally
July 27-Aug 3: Argentinian rally
Aug 21-25: 1000 Lakes rally, Finland
Sept 30-Oct 5: San Remo rally, Italy
Oct 29-Nov 3: Ivory Coast rally
Nov 23-28: Lombard RAC rally, Great Britain

NETBALL

Feb 16: England v Republic of Ireland under 21/under 18, Poole
Mar 2/3: United Kingdom and Ireland tournament, Scotland
Mar 30: Northern Ireland v England, under-21/under-18, Northern Ireland
June 1: International tournament
July 31-Aug 2: World games, Crystal Palace
Nov 30: International netball trophy, Wembley

ORIENTEERING

Mar 3: British championships, Wyre Forest, West Midlands
Mar 17: National event, Plym Forest, Devon
Apr 21: National event, Stourhead
May 6: Inter-regional championships, Ambergate, Derby
May 19: National event, West Cumbria
May 26: National event, Trossachs
July 7: National event, Kilnsey Moor
Oct 13: National event, Pembury Park, South Wales
Oct 20: National event, Pannanich, Scotland

POLO

May 28-31: Preliminary rounds, Dollar Cup, Cowdray Park
June 2: Final, Dollar Cup, Cowdray Park
June 2-6: 1st round and quarter-finals, Queen's Cup, Smith's Lawn, Windsor
June 7: Semi-finals, Queen's Cup
June 9: Final, Queen's Cup
June 11-14: Preliminary rounds, Warwickshire Cup, Cirencester
June 25-27: Quarter-finals, Warwickshire Cup
June 28: Semi-finals, Warwickshire Cup
June 30: Final, Warwickshire Cup
July 2-18: League matches British Open, Cowdray Park
July 19: Semi-finals, British Open
July 21: Final, British Open
July 28: Cartier International Day, Smith's Lawn
July 25-Aug 1: Quarter-finals, Cowdray Park Challenge Cup, Cowdray Park
Aug 2: Semi-finals, Cowdray Park Challenge Cup
Aug 4: Final, Cowdray Park Challenge Cup
Aug 12-18: National 15-goal championship, Cirencester
Aug 16-18: National Pony Club championship, Cowdray Park
Sept 5-13: Preliminary rounds, European championship, Smith's Lawn
Sept 15: Final, European championship

POWERBOATING

Inland circuit racing
World Grand Prix series for two-litre-engined boats:
Jan 18-20: Nassau
Feb 16/17: Miami
Mar 30/31: Johannesburg
May 18/19: Hanover
June 8/9: Bristol
June 29/30: Scandinavia, Holland or Austria
July 27/28: Lignano
Aug 3/4: Milan
Aug 24-26: Royal Victoria Dock, London
Sept 14/15: Scandinavia, Holland or Austria
Oct 5/6: Paris

British championship series for two-litre-engined boats:
May 6: Oulton Broad, Norfolk
May 11/12: Carr Mill, Lancashire
June 1/2: Stewartby, Bedfordshire
July 13: Windermere
Aug 4: Chasewater, Birmingham
Aug 10/11: Fairford, Gloucestershire
Sept 21/22: Holme Pierrepoint, Nottingham

Offshore
World championship events:
June 4-10: World IIIb, Guernsey
Aug 25: World Class I and II, Cowes
Aug 31: Torbay international
Sept 16-21: Poole Bay International
European championship event:
Aug 18: European IId, The Needles
United Kingdom championship events:
May 4: Spithead Trophy, Portsmouth
May 25: Fowey Offshore Trophy, Cornwall
July 7: London/Calais/London, Tower Bridge
July 28: Brighton Marina Trophy, Sussex
Aug 31: Torbay international, Brixham
Sept 21: Poole Bay Trophy, Dorset

RACING

Jan 12: Embassy Premier Chase Final, Ascot
Feb 9: Schweppes Gold Trophy Hurdle, Newbury
Feb 16: Irish Champion Hurdle, Leopardstown
Mar 9: Imperial Cup Hurdle, Sandown Park
Mar 12: Champion Hurdle Challenge Trophy, Cheltenham
Mar 13: Sun Alliance Steeple Chase, and Queen Mother Champion Chase, Cheltenham
Mar 14: Cheltenham Gold Cup Chase, and Triumph Hurdle, Cheltenham
Mar 23: Lincoln Handicap, Doncaster
● **Mar 30:** Grand National, Liverpool
Corbiere and Hallo Dandy, the last two Grand National winners, are both enjoying extended mid-season breaks before chasing Aintree glory once again in three months' time. Hallo Dandy is putting his hoofs up on the Penrith farm of his trainer, Gordon Richards, while Jenny Pitman is hoping to restore Corbiere's enthusiasm by hunting him with the Vine and Craven. Toby Balding, who won the 1969 National with Highland Wedding, has another leading contender in Lucky Vane, fourth to Hallo Dandy nine months ago.
Apr 17: European Handicap, Newmarket
Apr 18: Irish Grand National, Fairyhouse
Apr 20: Scottish National, Ayr
Apr 27: Whitbread Gold Cup, Sandown Park
Apr 28: French 2,000 Guineas, Longchamp
May 2: 1,000 Guineas Stakes, Newmarket
May 4: Kentucky Derby, Churchill Downs
May 4: 2,000 Guineas Stakes, Newmarket
May 5: French 1,000 Guineas, Longchamp
May 7: Chester Vase, Chester
May 15: Dante Stakes, York
May 18: Irish 2,000 Guineas, The Curragh
May 25: Irish 1,000 Guineas, The Curragh
June 5: Derby Stakes, Epsom
● **Lester Piggott, with nine Derby victories to his credit, will have a free hand to choose his Epsom mount now that he has parted company with Henry Cecil. Kala Dancer and Reach are likely to rank high rank on Piggott's short list as he thumbs the form book this winter. Cecil himself, with the 1984 champion, Steve Cauthen, now his stable jockey, has high hopes that Lanfranco will provide his first Derby success. El Gran Señor was inches away from giving Vincent O'Brien his seventh Derby last June and the Ballydoyle maestro again has a host of possibilities including Law Society, Gold Crest and Father Matthew. O'Brien's son, David, who saddled Secreto to beat El Gran Señor seven months ago, now has the Derby in mind for his promising filly, Alydar's Best.**
June 6: Coronation Cup, Epsom
June 8: Oaks Stakes, Epsom
June 9: French Derby, Chantilly
June 16: French Oaks, Chantilly
June 19: Coronation Stakes, Jersey Stakes and Queen's Vase Stakes, Ascot
June 20: Gold Cup, King Edward VII Stakes and Cork and Orrery Stakes, Ascot
June 29: *Miners' Northumberland Plate, Newcastle*
June 29: Irish Derby, The Curragh
July 6: Eclipse Stakes, Sandown
July 10: July Stakes, Newmarket
July 11: July Cup, Newmarket
July 13: Magnet Cup, York
July 13: Irish Oaks, The Curragh
July 27: King George VI and the Queen Elizabeth Diamond Stakes, Ascot
July 30: Stewards Cup, Goodwood
Aug 1: Goodwood Cup, Goodwood
Aug 2: Extel Handicap, Goodwood
Aug 3: Nassau Stakes, Goodwood
Aug 20: Benson & Hedges Gold Cup, and Yorkshire Oaks, York
Aug 21: Ebor Handicap and Lowther Stakes, York
Aug 22: Great Voltigeur Stakes, Gimcrack Stakes, and William Hill Sprint championship, York
Aug 24: Waterford Crystal Mile, Goodwood
Aug 31: Arlington Million, Chicago
Sept 7: Vernons Sprint Cup, Haydock Park
Sept 7: Phoenix Champion Stakes, Phoenix Park, Dublin
Sept 11: Park Hill Stakes, Doncaster
Sept 12: Doncaster Cup, Doncaster
Sept 13: Champagne Stakes, Doncaster
Sept 14: St Leger Stakes, Doncaster
Sept 20: Ayr Gold Cup, Ayr
Sept 28: Royal Lodge Stakes, and Queen Elizabeth II Stakes, Ascot
Oct 2: Cheveley Park Stakes, Newmarket
Oct 3: Middle Park Stakes, Newmarket
Oct 5: Cambridgeshire Handicap, Newmarket
Oct 6: Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe, Longchamp
Oct 12: Irish St Leger, The Curragh
Oct 18: Dewhurst Stakes, Newmarket
Oct 19: Champion Stakes and Cesarewitch Handicap, Newmarket
Oct 26: William Hill Futurity Stakes, Doncaster
Oct 27: French St Leger, Longchamp
Nov 9: Mackeson Gold Cup, Cheltenham
Nov 23: Hennessy Gold Cup, Newbury
Nov 24: Japan Cup, Tokyo
Dec 7: Kennedy Construction Gold Cup, Cheltenham
Dec 21: Welsh National, Chepstow
Dec 26: King George VI Chase, Kempton Park

Prospects glow for the Ashes

The feature of the 1985 cricket season will be the thirtieth visit of the Australians, whose itinerary includes six Test matches, sponsored by Cornhill Insurance, and three one-day internationals for the Texaco Trophy.

An Australian tour retains a special place in the English cricket calendar, as it has done ever since the first side in 1878 defeated MCC *in a single day* at Lord's and in a few hours taught the mother country that cricket talent was *not* her sole preserve.

The 1985 Australian team have a difficult act to follow, for their immediate predecessors in 1981, if not remembered for their success, took part in a Test series which gripped the nation's attention perhaps more than any other in the long history of the game.

England, already one match down and forced to follow on 227 runs behind in the third Test at Headingley, were within three wickets of an innings defeat and odds of 500-1 were on offer to those patriotic, or paranoic, enough even to contemplate a home victory. It is a matter of history now that Ian Botham, wielding his bat like a bludgeon, clubbed the Australian attack into submission and with heroic support from Dilley, Old and Willis set Australia a target of 130; then Willis, the bowler, tearing in like a man possessed, destroyed their batting and England were home.

It had been 87 years since the only previous Test win by a team that had followed on and, as though that achievement was insufficient, England, under the inspiring leadership of Mike Brearley, recovered from another seemingly hopless position to win the fourth Test and went on to take the series by three matches to one.



Taking strike: W. G. Grace faces Australia at the Oval in 1882

Australia regained the Ashes two winters ago in a home series which also contained one of the most exciting Tests ever played, England winning by a mere three runs, and they hold an overall lead in the matches between the countries of 95 wins to 83, with 73 drawn.

This time both sides will be under different captains, Willis and Greg Chappell having retired, and both will be seeking to regain some self-respect after severe drubbings by West Indies. For the first time in three years England will be able to select from full strength, with the likes of Gooch, Emburey, Willey and Underwood eligible again after their ban for playing in South Africa.

Australian tour dates
May 5: Lavinia, Duchess of Norfolk's XI, Arundel
May 8-10: Somerset, Taunton
May 11-13: Worcestershire, Worcester
May 14: Nottinghamshire, Trent Bridge
May 16: Surrey, The Oval
May 18-21: Sussex, Hove
May 22-24: MCC, Lord's
May 25-28: Derbyshire, Derby
May 30: England, first one-day international, Old Trafford
June 1: England, second one-day international, Edgbaston
June 3: England, third one-day international, Lord's
June 5-7: Yorkshire, Headingley (or Warwickshire or Lancashire depending on Benson and Hedges Cup quarter-finals)
June 8-11: Leicestershire, Leicester
June 13-18: England, first Test, Headingley
June 20: Combined Universities, Cambridge
June 22-25: Hampshire, Southampton
June 27-July 2: England, second Test, Lord's
July 6-9: Essex, Chelmsford
July 11-16: England, third Test, Trent Bridge
July 18: Minor Counties, Jesmond
July 20-22: Glamorgan, Neath (or Warwickshire if Glamorgan in Benson and Hedges Cup final)
July 24-26: Gloucestershire, Bristol
July 27-30: Northamptonshire, Northampton
Aug 1-6: England, fourth Test, Old Trafford
Aug 8: Ireland, Downpatrick
Aug 10-13: Middlesex, Lord's
Aug 15-21: England, fifth Test, Edgbaston
Aug 24-27: Kent, Canterbury
Aug 29-Sept 3: England, sixth Test, The Oval

Applications for tickets for the three one-day internationals and six Test matches should be made to the club secretaries at the grounds concerned.

RACKETS, REAL TENNIS

Jan 4-6: Eric Angus Cup under-24 Open real tennis singles, Queen's Club
Jan 11-13: Professional doubles and women's doubles real tennis, Canford, Dorset
Jan 11-20: Amateur rackets singles, Queen's Club
Feb 8-10: Professional rackets singles, Manchester
Feb 8-17: Amateur rackets doubles, Queen's Club
Mar 5: Oxford v Cambridge rackets, Queen's Club
Mar 6/7: *Oxford v Cambridge real tennis, Lord's*
Mar 12-20: Open rackets doubles, Queen's Club
Mar 15-19: World championship real tennis challenge, Queen's Club
Mar 21-31: Amateur real tennis singles, Queen's Club
Mar 23-30: Public Schools rackets doubles, Queen's Club
Mar 30/31: Over-40s rackets singles and doubles, Queen's Club
Apr 4-8: Under-24 Open real tennis doubles and under 24 Open rackets doubles, Queen's Club
Apr 9-21: Open rackets singles, Queen's Club
Apr 20/21: Senior over-50s real tennis singles, Manchester

May 17-19: Professional real tennis singles and Taylor Cup, Moreton Morrell, Warwickshire

ROWING

Mar 19: Schools Head of the River race, Tideway, London
Mar 30: Head of the River, Tideway, London
Mar 31: Oxford and Cambridge women's and men's lightweight boat races, Henley
● **Apr 6:** Oxford v Cambridge Boat Race, Putney to Mortlake
The 156th Boat Race (2.45pm) sees Oxford seeking their tenth successive win which will be a record for them. Cambridge are frustrated but on paper appear to have a better chance than usual; they have two British Olympic oarsmen available. Oxford have three internationals in Britain's Bill Lang, Australian Rhodes Scholar Graham Jones and Pan-American champion Francis Reininger for the United States. Ticket enquiries to: Duncan Clegg, 21 Moorfields, London EC2 P2HT (01-588 2721).
Apr 13: Scullers' Head of the River, Tideway
June 1-2: Nottinghamshire international
June 8-9: National Schools' Regatta, Nottingham
July 12-14: Lucerne international Regatta, Luzern, Switzerland
July 18: Doggett's Coat and Badge, London Bridge to Chelsea (prov)
July 27: Home Countries' International, Nottingham
Aug 7-11: Junior championships, Brandenburg, East Germany
Aug 26-Sept 1: World championships, Hazelwinkel, Belgium

RUGBY LEAGUE

Jan 5: John Player Special Trophy, second semi-final
Jan 26: John Player Special Trophy, final
Feb 9/10: Challenge Cup first round
Feb 23/24: Challenge Cup second round
Mar 2: Great Britain v France colts
Mar 3: Great Britain v France
Mar 9/10: Challenge Cup third round
Mar 17: France v Great Britain
Mar 23: Challenge Cup first semi-final
Apr 6: Challenge Cup second semi-final
Apr 28: Slalom Lager Premiership first round
● **May 4:** *Silk Cut Challenge Cup final, Wembley*
The Rugby League Challenge Cup final is a much loved event. Many of the 90,000 spectators who will attend it regard it as a social and family outing as much as a sporting contest. The two towns whose teams battle it out at Wembley are empty on the Saturday of the match, with, it seems, half the population at the Empire Stadium, and the remaining half watching on television or listening on radio. Spectators come from Australia and New Zealand, South Wales and all parts of England for this once-a-year celebration, which invariably produces an excellent game. The holders, Widnes, will be looking for their fifth success in 11 years.
May 11: Premiership final

RUGBY UNION

Jan 5: England v Romania, Twickenham
Jan 19: Ireland v England, Dublin; France v Wales, Paris; Scotland B v France B, Aberdeen
Feb 2: Scotland v Ireland, Edinburgh; England v France, Twickenham
● **Feb 16:** Wales v England, Cardiff; France v Scotland, Paris
The ninetieth meeting between England and Wales will take place in Cardiff where England have not won since 1963, though they came close in 1983 when they forced a draw. Both countries are rebuilding though England will have already played four matches to Wales's two.
Mar 2: Scotland v Wales, Edinburgh; Ireland v France, Dublin
Mar 6: UAU final, Twickenham
Mar 16: England v Scotland, Twickenham; Wales v Ireland, Cardiff
Mar 30: County championship final, Middlesex v Notts, Lincs and Derbys, Twickenham; Cathay Pacific/Hong Kong Bank invitation sevens, Hong Kong
Apr 14: Romania v Italy, Bucharest
Apr 17: England B v Italy, Twickenham
Apr 20: Wales B v Spain, Bridgend
Apr 27: John Player Special Cup final, Twickenham; Schweppes Welsh Cup final, Cardiff
May 1: Spain v USSR, Madrid
May 4: Middlesex sevens final, Twickenham
May 5: Romania v Tunisia
May 12: USSR v Tunisia
May 19: France v USSR, Tulle
May: Scotland tour to British Columbia and Alberta; Ireland to tour Japan
June 1: New Zealand v England, Christchurch
June 8: New Zealand v England, Wellington
June 29: New Zealand v Australia, Auckland
June: New Zealand scheduled to tour South Africa
June 22: Australia v Canada, Sydney
July 3: Australia v Canada, Brisbane
Aug 4: Australia v Fiji, Brisbane
Aug 10: Australia v Fiji, Sydney
Oct 19: Ireland v Fiji, Sydney
Nov 9: Wales v Fiji, Dublin
Dec 7: England B v Scotland B
Dec 10: Oxford University v Cambridge University, Twickenham

Pitched battles down the road to Mexico

The preliminary competition of the 1986 World Cup is the biggest in the history of the tournament. A total of 119 countries, 17 more than entered in 1982, are attempting to qualify for next summer's finals where they will be joined by the hosts, Mexico, and the holders, Italy.

At least 12 of the 22 qualifiers will be from Europe. They will include the seven group winners, the four runners-up in the groups containing five nations and the winner of a play-off between the runners-up in the three groups containing four nations. The runner-up in the play-off will then meet the Oceania champions for another place in the finals.

England, the current leaders of their group, should be among them. After overwhelming Finland 5-0 at home and humiliating Turkey 8-0 away, they need only to avoid defeat in their next two fixtures, in Northern Ireland and Romania, to be relatively sure of going through.

Scotland, unbeaten and with maximum points, are in a similar position but they have yet to travel outside Hampden Park, and their first journey, to Spain, could be crucial. The Scots will then return home and should reduce still further the hopes of Wales, who opened with two successive defeats. The ambitions of both the Irish representatives have already been damaged in Scandinavia. Northern Ireland, one of the surprising successes in Spain, have been beaten in Finland, and the Republic, after gaining initial encouragement at home against the Soviet Union then lost in Norway and Denmark.

The favourites to join England and Scotland are France, who collected the European title in their own homeland last June; West Germany, World Cup finalists in 1982; Belgium, Hungary and Denmark. The most unexpected failure so far has been that of The Netherlands, who lost their first two games.

Apart from the hosts, the favourites to win the trophy are the four South American qualifiers and especially Uruguay, by far the most impressive of England's opponents during last summer's tour. The outsiders will be the two representatives from Africa, the two from Asia and the one from North and Central America.

Italy already know that they will be in group A and will take part in the opening match in the Aztec stadium on May 31. Mexico will be in group B. The fate of the other 22 finalists will be unveiled during the draw in Mexico City on December 15, 1985.

Golden days: Bobby Moore kisses the World Cup in 1966

Group three
Feb 27: Northern Ireland v England
Apr 3: Romania v Turkey
May 1: Romania v England; Northern Ireland v Turkey
May 22: Finland v England
June 6: Finland v Romania
Aug 28: Romania v Finland
Sept 11: England v Romania; Turkey v Northern Ireland
Sept 25: Finland v Turkey
Oct 16: England v Turkey; Romania v Northern Ireland
Nov 13: England v Northern Ireland
Nov 14: Turkey v Romania

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
England	2	2	0	0	13	0	4
N Ireland	3	2	0	1	5	4	4
Finland	4	2	0	2	14	6	4
Romania	1	0	0	1	2	3	0
Turkey	2	0	0	2	1	10	0

Group seven
Feb 27: Spain v Scotland
Mar 27: Scotland v Wales
Apr 4: Wales v Spain
May 28: Iceland v Scotland
June 12: Iceland v Spain
Sept 10: Wales v Scotland
Sept 25: Spain v Iceland.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Scotland	2	2	0	0	6	1	4
Spain	2	1	0	1	4	2	2
Iceland	3	1	0	2	2	5	2
Wales	3	1	0	2	2	5	2

SHOOTING

Feb 27-Mar 4: European air weapons championships, Bulgaria
Apr 20-28: World air weapons championships, Mexico
July 18: Public Schools rifle championship, Bisley, Surrey
July 13-27: 125th National Rifle Association meeting, Bisley, Surrey
July 27: The Queen's Prize, Bisley
July 28: Palma Match (GB v Canada v Australia v USA), Bisley, Surrey
Aug 10-17: National smallbore rifle championships, Bisley, Surrey
Aug 23-26: National pistol championships, Bisley, Surrey
Sept 3-12: European smallbore championships, Osijek, Yugoslavia
Oct 11-13: British air weapons championships, Cardiff

SKIING

Jan 8-16: British Alpine championships, Sils, St Moritz, Switzerland
Jan 12/13: Hahnenkamm, Kitzbühel, Austria
Jan 17-27: World Nordic championships, Seefeld, Austria
Jan 19/20: Lauberhorn, Wengen, Switzerland
Jan 19-21: Women's World Cup, Chamonix, France
Jan 26/27: Women's World Cup, Arosa, Switzerland
Jan 27-Feb 5: *British Nordic championships, Zwiesel, West Germany*
Jan 31-Feb 10: *World Alpine championships, Bormio, Italy*
Mar 16/17: Kandahar-Martini, Carvinia, Italy
Mar 21/22: Alpine World Cup finals, Heavenly Valley, California
Apr 15-18: British free-style championships, Cairngorm

SPEEDWAY

Apr 20: England v Denmark, Coventry
Apr 26: England v Denmark, Oxford
May 4: England v Denmark, Manchester
May 12: Team world championship (England, Australia, New Zealand, Finland), Bradford
June 1: Pairs world championship semi-final, Bradford
June 30: British Open, Wolverhampton
July 17: Individual world championship overseas final, Bradford
July 30: World games, Wimbledon
Aug 31: Individual world championship world final, Bradford
Sept: England v USA internationals, Poole, Ipswich and Wolverhampton

SQUASH RACKETS

Jan 4-6: Home internationals, Belfast
Jan 4-7: British under-19 Open, London
Jan 11-14: British doubles, Swindon, Wiltshire
Jan 19-25: British under-23 Open, Bristol
Feb 14-17: Swedish Open, Stockholm
Feb 18-21: Finnish Open
Feb 21-23: Irish Open, Dublin
Mar 11-17: French Open, Paris
Apr 5-9: European championships, Spain
Apr 15-23: British Open championships, East Grinstead and Wembley
May 4-6: British women's doubles Open, Birmingham
June 2-15: Champion of champions, nationwide
Aug 12-Sept 8: Women's world championships, Belfast
Oct 12-14: European champion of champions, Brussels
Oct 26-30: World masters, Warrington, Lancashire
Nov 1-4: Spanish Open
Nov 8-14: German Open Munich; Inter-city British championships
Nov 16-19: British under-23 championships, Bristol
Nov 18-25: World Open (team men), Egypt
Nov 27-Dec 7: World Open (individual men), Egypt

SWIMMING

Jan 18-20: Golden Cup, Strasbourg, France
Jan 25-27: Speedo meeting, Amersfoort, The Netherlands
Feb 1-3: Diana meeting, Paris
Feb 8-10: Arena meeting, Bonn
Apr 4-8: Water polo international, Crystal Palace
Apr 11-14: European diving cup, Zurich
Apr 13/14: GB v Sweden, Blackpool
Apr 25-28: World diving cup, Shanghai
June 28-30: GB v Canada, Edinburgh
Aug 3-11: European championships, Sofia, Bulgaria
Aug 24-Sept 4: World student games, Kobe, Japan
Dec 14/15: European swimming cup, Den Bosch, The Netherlands

TABLE TENNIS

Jan 12: Charles Church championships, Wembley
Jan 12/13: Cleveland 3-Star
Jan 16-19: Welsh Open, Cardiff
Jan 23: England v Yugoslavia, European League (away)
Feb 1-3: European Top Twelve, Barcelona
Feb 9/10: Essex 3-Star
Feb 20: England v Germany, European League, Portsmouth
Mar 2/3: South of England 3-Star
Mar 6: England v Holland, European League (away)
Mar 7-9: English closed championships
Mar 17-23: Commonwealth championships, Isle of Man
Mar 28-Apr 7: World championships, Gothenburg, Sweden
May 11/12: English Junior Open



TENNIS

Jan 1-6: Doubles tournament, Albert Hall
Jan 2-6: Under-22 tournament, Birmingham
Jan 8-13: Masters tournament, New York
Jan 14-20: King's Cup tournament, Essen
Feb 5-17: ATP/WTA tournament, Delray Beach, Florida
Mar 19-24: Women's circuit championships, New York
Apr 9-14: WCT tournament, Dallas
May 20-26: World Team Cup tournament, Düsseldorf
May 27-June 9: French championships, Paris
June 10-16: Men's tournament, Queen's Club; women's tournament, Edgbaston
June 17-23: Men's tournament, Bristol; women's tournament, Eastbourne

June 24-July 7: Wimbledon championships
The five Wimbledon championships have been won by the same players for at least two consecutive years. Further inroads into the records could be made in 1985 by John McEnroe, Martina Navratilova and, in doubles, McEnroe and Peter Fleming, Miss Navratilova and Pam Shriver, and Wendy Turnbull and John Lloyd. Application forms for the ticket ballot should be requested (SAE enclosed) from the All England Club, Church Road, Wimbledon, London SW19 by Dec 31.

Aug 27-Sept 8: US championships, New York
Oct 7-13: Federation Cup tournament, Nagoya, Japan
Oct 21-27: Women's tournament, Brighton

VOLLEYBALL

Mar 16/17: Scotland v England, women, Edinburgh; England v Scotland, men
Mar 30-Apr 7: Spring Cup, men, Denmark
Apr 14-22: Spring Cup, women, Israel
Apr 28: English Cup, final
May 3-6: Hitachi Cup, women, Japan (prov)
Sept 9-23: World Junior championships, Italy
Sept: Commonwealth championships, Melbourne (prov)
Sept: European championships, finals, The Netherlands (prov)
Nov 10-Dec 1: World Cup, Japan

WATER SKIING

June 8/9: KP Masters, Princes
June 22/23: English Native championships, Lound
July 13/14: British National tournament championships, Thorpe Park
July 27-28: *World Games, Thorpe Park*
Aug 3-14: European Cup Final, Princes
Aug 10/11: British National Junior and Dauphin championships, Holme Pierrepont
Aug 24/25: British National Senior and Veteran championships, Tallington
Sept 21/22: British All Regions tournament, Hazelwood
Sept 28/29: British Ski League final, venue to be announced

WEIGHTLIFTING

Mar 3: Women's Powerlifting championships, Fleetwood
Mar 29 and 31: EEC championships, Kassel
May 5-12: European Senior Powerlifting championships, The Netherlands
May 12: Senior Weightlifting championships, Milton Keynes
May 19-26: Senior European Weightlifting championships, Katowice, Poland
May 27-31: Women's World Powerlifting championships, Austria
June 8/9: Senior Powerlifting championships, Birmingham
July 6: English Native championships, Huddersfield
July 21: Masters Powerlifting championships, Milton Keynes
Aug 23-31: Senior World Weightlifting championships, Sondatalje, Sweden
Aug (dates to be announced): World Masters Powerlifting championships
Sept 19: World Cup, Monte Carlo
Nov 7-10: World Senior Powerlifting championships, Helsinki
Dec 7: Women's European Powerlifting championships, The Netherlands

WRESTLING

Mar 8-10: International tournament, Budapest
Mar 30: British senior championships, Bolton
Apr 23-28: European championships, Leipzig
June 15/16: Challenge Cup of Great Britain
July 23-28: World Games, Crystal Palace
Oct 26: *English senior championships, Horwich*



YACHTING

May 10-12: Lymington Cup, Lymington
May 23-28: Scottish Series, Tarbert
June 8/9: Powerboat GP, Bristol
June 29: Round the Island race, Cowes
July 6: Round Britain race begins, Plymouth
July 8-21: One Ton Cup, Poole
July 14-19: Edinburgh Cup, Forth
July 21-26: Dragon Gold Cup, Forth
July 25-Aug 3: 505 European championship, Mounts Bay
July 28-Aug 2: Hornet European championship, Deal
July 31-Aug 10: Admiral's Cup, Cowes

Aug 3-11: Cowes Week, Cowes
Cowes Week this year will be enhanced by the Admiral's Cup series, bringing the cream of the world's ocean racing fleet to the Solent. After two disappointing seasons, the British team of three boats will be hard pressed to wrest back the trophy from the Germans, with strong challenges expected also from France, Australia and the United States.

Aug 4: Round Europe race begins, Kiel
Aug 14: Round Europe race stopover, Torquay
Aug 18: Needles powerboat trophy, Poole
Aug 25: Powerboat Classic, Cowes
Aug 25/26: UK Powerboat GP, London
Aug 31-Sept 1: International Powerboats, Torbay
Sept 5-15: Boardsailing Division II Worlds, Torbay
Sept 8-13: J24 European championship, Cork
Sept 14/15: European T2 Powerboats, Fairford
Sept 28: Round World race begins, Portsmouth
Sept 22-Oct 13: Sailing Speed Records, Portland
Nov 3: Caribbean race, Falmouth and Barcelona

Compiled by Peter Waymark

New Year television and radio

Critical guide to the holiday broadcasting

TODAY

TALES OF BEATRIX POTTER (1971)
Channel 4, 12.30-2.10pm
Sir Frederick Ashton, Wayne Sleep and Lesley Collier are some of the famous names behind the masks in a charming balletic interpretation of five of Beatrix Potter's animal stories.

THE JOLSON STORY (1946)
Channel 4, 2.10-4.35pm
Bowdlerized, likeable biography of the great Al Jolson, who is played (and mimed) by Larry Parks. But the Jolson voice is authentic and so are the songs, from "There's A Rainbow Around My Shoulder" to "April Showers" and "My Mammy". The 1949 sequel, *Jolson Sings Again*, is on Channel 4 tomorrow (2-3.45pm).

THE TOWERING INFERNO (1974)
BBC1, 5.55-8.35pm
The archetypal disaster movie – flames engulf the world's tallest building and trap a raft of stars including Paul Newman, Steve McQueen and William Holden. The special effects men have a ball.

MR SMITH GOES TO WASHINGTON (1939)
Channel 4, 10pm-12.25am
Folksy Frank Capra comedy with James Stewart as the Senator from the sticks exposing graft and corruption in high places. A persuasive testament to the American ideals of life, liberty and the triumph of the common man.

HIGH NOON (1952)
BBC1, midnight-1.25am
Lone marshal Gary Cooper preparing to do what a man's gotta do as the outlaws ride in on the noon train. Contrived but gripping Western, tautly directed by Fred Zinneman: there were Oscars for Cooper, composer Dmitri Tiomkin and the title song "Do not Foresake Me, Oh My Darlin'".

Woman's role: Meryl Streep in Kramer v Kramer and The Deer Hunter (top), TV premieres

TOMORROW

CITY LIGHTS (1931)
BBC2, 1.50-3.15pm
Chaplin's little tramp befriends a blind flower seller and helps her to regain her sight. A good candidate for the most successful of Chaplin's silent comedies, with the sentimentality and the slapstick coming in just the right measure.

STAR WARS (1977)
ITV, 2.45-5pm
Artful mixture of old fashioned fairy tale and new fangled technology, dazzingly orchestrated by director George Lucas. But inevitably less effective on the small screen.

THE WIZARD OF OZ (1939)
BBC2, 5.10-6.50pm
Follow Judy Garland and chums down the Yellow Brick Road for one of the most enchanting musicals ever: rich Technicolour, a host of outside characters, including Bert Lahr's Cowardly Lion and Margaret Hamilton's Witch; and among the songs the enduringly poignant "Over the Rainbow".

KRAMER VS KRAMER (1979)
BBC1, 8.35-10.20pm
Juicy performances from Meryl Streep and Dustin Hoffman as estranged parents battling over the custody of their son in a well observed, if slightly cute, study of domestic disharmony which picked up five Oscars.*

THE DRIVER (1978)
BBC2, 10.35pm-12.10am
Detective Bruce Dern on the trail of getaway driver Ryan O'Neal in Walter Hill's cat-and-mouse chase thriller in which character comes second to action and the real stars are the stunt men.
Replaces *Looking for Mr Goodbar.*

NEW YEAR'S EVE

HEAVEN'S ABOVE! (1963)/I'M ALL RIGHT JACK (1959)
BBC1, 1.40-3.30pm/3.35-5.15pm
Double bill of Boulting Brothers' comedies starring Peter Sellers. In the first he is a well meaning Midlands vicar who outrages a snooty parish; in the second he gives one of his finest screen performances as the Communist shop steward, Fred Kite.

THE CIRCUS (1928)
BBC2, 5.15-6.25pm
Underestimated Chaplin comedy, made while his private life was in a turmoil but still containing many reminders of his genius. It is the usual mix of gags and pathos as Charlie, on the run from the police, is taken on by a circus and falls for the beautiful bareback rider.

DAY FOR NIGHT (1973)
BBC2, 9-10.50pm
Francois Truffaut's fascination with the mechanics of cinema was never more evident than in this funny and affectionate look at a harassed director (played by Truffaut himself) trying to get his production off the ground. Watch out for Graham Greene in a tiny cameo.

SINGIN' IN THE RAIN (1952)
BBC1, 12.10-1.50am
Gene Kelly sploshing his way through the title number is only one of many delights in this giant among American musicals. There's a quicksilver Donald O'Connor, fetching Debbie Reynolds and high kicking Cyd Charisse, all integrated into a wry look at Hollywood itself as it makes the painful transition from silents to talkies.

NEW YEAR'S DAY

STATE FAIR (1945)
Channel 4, 2.30-4.20pm
Rousing tribute to small town America which brought Rodgers and Hammerstein to the cinema after their stage success with *Oklahoma!* The songs carry it mainly but there is an engaging performance from roly-poly Charles Winninger as the owner of a prize pig.

THE GUNS OF NAVRONE (1961)
BBC1, 6.10-8.40pm.
Best to enjoy the excitement and forget the moralizing in this rattling Alistair MacLean adventure about wartime commandos Gregory Peck, David Niven and Anthony Quinn trying to silence two huge German guns.

MODERN TIMES (1936)
BBC2, 6.10-7.35pm.
Chaplin's satire on the inhumanity of the factory assembly-line still strikes chords and there is trenchant if sometimes naive social criticism behind the fooling. Paulette Goddard is the gamine who comforts Charlie in his darkest moments and for the first time on screen Chaplin briefly gives his little tramp a voice.

DR NO (1962)
ITV, 6.30-8.30pm.
The first James Bond adventure to be filmed – why did it take them so long? Sean Connery's stylish, tongue in cheek playing emphasises how much he was missed in later productions.

THE DEER HUNTER (1978)
BBC2, 9.10pm-12.10am.
Michael Cimino's epic treatment of the effect of the Vietnam war on three Pennsylvania steelworkers, which resists the temptation to score political points and concentrates on the human dimension. Compulsive playing from Robert de Niro, Christopher Walken and John Cazale, with Meryl Streep as the girl they leave behind.*

DUCK SOUP (1933)
BBC1, 12.20-1.25am.
The Marx Brothers at their zany best, uncluttered by musical interludes and romantic sub-plots. It's the one in which Groucho plays Rufus T. Firefly, ruler of Freedonia and casting a lecherous eye on Margaret Dumont.

WEDNESDAY

PARADE 4, 4.30-5.45pm.
The last film of Jacques Tati, made for television, in which he plays the ringmaster of a circus and recreates his classic mimes.*

ON THE WATERFRONT (1954)
BBC1 10.20-12-05am.
Budd Schulberg's story of union racketeering in the New York docks provided the perfect vehicle for director Elia Kazan and a potent cast of "method" actors, headed by Marlon Brando, Lee J. Cobb and Rod Steiger.

GALLIPOLI (1981)
ITV, 10.30pm-12.35am.
Mel Gibson leads Australian director Peter Weir's perceptive study of comradeship in battle, set against the Dardanelles campaign of the First World War.

THURSDAY

SWEET CHARITY (1969)
BBC2, 9-11.20pm
Bob Fosse musical about the loves of a New York taxi driver (Shirley Maclaine) in which style and energy help to compensate for a fragmented structure. From a Neil Simon play, inspired by the Fellini film *Le Notti di Cabiria.*

FRIDAY

SUPERMAN 11 ITV, 7-9.15pm.
Christopher Reeve back as the red-caped hero, up against the mad General Zod. One of the few examples in the cinema of a sequal upstaging the original, mainly thanks to the lively direction of Richard Lester.*

*First British television showing.

Television choice

A sure sign that 1984 is about to give way to 1985 is that the holiday programmes are back, with their tantalizing tours of golden beaches and islands in the sun. BBC1's *Holiday* (tomorrow, 4.35-5.10pm) is again fronted by Cliff Michelmore, John Carter and Anne Gregg, and on ITV Judith Chalmers and Chris Kelly are the hosts for *Wish You Were Here ...?* (Wednesday, 7-7.30pm).

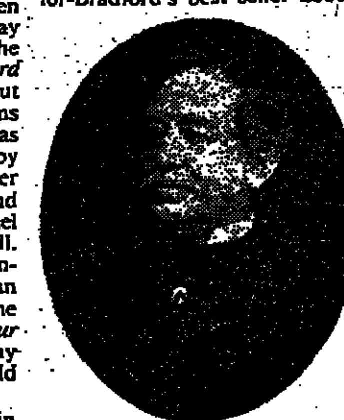
Forgive us for mentioning it but 1985 marks the bicentenary of this newspaper. Two views of the paper, its history, its reputation and its future are given in *The Times at 200*, presented by Hugo Young (BBC2, tomorrow, 9.45-10.35pm); and *The Greatest Paper in the World* (ITV, Wednesday, 9-10pm), narrated by Anthony Quayle and including contributions from editors, past and the present, and the proprietor Rupert Murdoch.

Actress of the week is the deliciously comic Maureen Lipman. On New Year's Day (BBC1, 10.15pm-12.20am) she is in Alan Ayckbourn's *Absurd Person Singular*, a play about three couples in three kitchens on three successive Christmas Eves. Lipman is partnered by Nicky Henson and the other pairs are Geoffrey Palmer and Prunella Scales and Michael Gambon and Cheryl Campbell. Earlier the same evening (Channel 4, 8-9pm) Lipman and Brian Murphy play Kitty McShane and Arthur Lucan in *On Your Way, Riley!*. Alan Plater's play on the bitter-sweet life of Old Mother Riley.

There is more comedy in *This Office Life* (BBC1, tomorrow, 5.10-6.30pm), which according to the author, Keith Waterhouse, consists of lots of people doing very little. Jenny Agutter, Dinsdale Landen and Roy Kinnear head the cast and the script adviser is a famous name from the Ealing film comedies, T. E. B. Clarke.

Wynne and Penkovsky by Andrew Carr recalls a remarkable spy story. David Calder plays Greville Wynne, who used his engineering export business as a cover to bring the Russian Colonel Oleg Penkovsky and his secrets to the West. Wynne, now growing roses in Majorca, advised on the programme, which has Christopher Rozycki as Penkovsky. Part one is on Wednesday, BBC1, 9.25-10.20pm; it continues on Thursday and Friday.

Fresh from a ratings triumph in the United States is Channel 4's mini-series, *A Woman of Substance*, form Barbara Taylor-Bradford's best seller about a humble Yorkshire kitchen maid who becomes one of the richest women in the world. The character is played in her younger days by Jenny Seagrove and in her maturity by Deborah Kerr. Arguably more distinguished is *The Life and Adventures of Nicholas Nickelby*, form the Royal Shakespeare Company's magnificent stage production, which gets a welcome repeat on Channel 4 today (6.05-10pm) and tomorrow (6-10.45pm).


Word warrior: Crimea reporter William Russell of The Times

Eric Morecambe has gone but the memories linger on. They will be revived by *Morecambe and Wise Classics*, clips from their BBC shows (BBC1, New Year's Eve, 8-9pm) introduced by Ernie Wise; and by their last film, *Night Train to Murder* (ITV, Thursday, 8.30-10pm)

Twenty five years ago the young Karel Reisz made a documentary about a south London youth club called *We Are the Lambeth Boys*, which helped to further the crusade for the more sympathetic treatment of working class life in the British cinema. In a three-part series, starting on Wednesday (8-9pm), BBC2 is showing the film and looking at what became of the Teddy Boys.

Amid the New Year festivities are reminders of more sombre themes: *Refugees of Faith* (Channel 4, tomorrow, 1.30-2pm) looks at the plight of the three million Afghans, the highest concentration of refugees in the world, living in exile in Pakistan; and *Global Report* (BBC2, New Year's Eve, 7.25-9pm) presents stories of man's basic needs for food, health, education and work, filmed in India, Brazil, Zimbabwe and Yorkshire.

Radio Choice

The more voyeuristic among us may feel that the enterprise calls out for pictures as well as words, but *Carry On Up the Shrubbery* (Radio 4, Friday, 11-11.48am) should still captivate.

It is not, as might be supposed, another compendium of smutty jokes with Kenneth Williams, Charles Hawtrey and company (though one day it might well be) but an examination of British nudism in the 1930s. Harry Thompson is the guide to the sudden explosion of the naturist cult, which is part of a general celebration of the delights of fresh air and clean living.

Another documentary explores the life and thoughts of E. F. Schumacher, the German scholar who late in life became the guru of those advocating a return to smaller economic units and numbered among his adherents both Mrs Thatcher and Tony Benn. Peter France presents *Mr Small is Beautiful* (Radio 4, Wednesday, 8.45-9.30pm).

Master's India, the most ambitious radio drama presentation of 1984, enters its final stretch on Sunday (Radio 4, 9-10pm) with the start of a five-part adaptation of *Bhowani Junction*. John Masters's sequence about the Savage family and Imperial India has reached 1946, the eve of Independence, and Victoria Jones (Shireen Shah) finds herself torn between the British and Indian cultures.

On Wednesday there is the first radio production of *Vieux Carré* (Radio 3, 7-9.20pm), a late play by Tennessee Williams based on his experiences as a young writer in the French quarter of New Orleans in the 1930s. Mark Rolston plays The Writer, who combines an affection for his fellow boarding house lodgers with a determination to escape his squalid environment; and Sheila Gish repeats her stage role of Jane.

Another tortured American writer, Dashiell Hammett, expressed his vision of his native land through crime novels, of which the most famous – thanks mainly to the John Huston film – is *The Maltese Falcon*. In the *Saturday Night Theatre* production (Radio 4, today, 8-10pm) Tom Wilkinson plays the privat eye, Sam Spade, and Jane Lapotaire is the viperous Brigid O'Shaughnessy.

The novel that was favourite for the Booker Prize but failed to win is the new *Book at Bedtime*, starting on Monday (Radio 4, 10.15-10.30pm). J. G. Ballard's *Empire of the Sun* is a partly autobiographical view, through the eyes of an 11-year-old boy, of a Japanese internment camp in 1942. The 15-part adaptation is read by Kenneth Haigh.

Finally, Joe Loss and his Big Band celebrate 50 years of broadcasting with a concert of their hit numbers from the 1930s to the present day (Radio 2, today, 7.30-8.30pm).

OPERA

ROYAL OPERA HOUSE
Covent Garden, London WC2
(240 1066)
The traditional New Year *Fledermaus* still holds the stage at Covent Garden with performances this week on Thurs, and, of course, New Year's Eve itself (both 7.00).
There will doubtless be the usual party frolics on the great night. Julius Rudel conducts, and the strong young cast includes Elizabeth Gale as Adèle, Barbara Daniels as Rosalinde, Dennis O'Neill as Alfred, and Thomas Allen as Von Eisenstein.

ENGLISH NATIONAL OPERA
Coliseum, St Martin's Lane, London.WC1.
(836 3161)
Tonight, Wed and Fri at 7.00 further performances of Tchaikovsky's *Mazeppa*, with Malcolm Donnelly in the title role and Mark Elder conducting. After the last two peformances (Jan 8 & 10) the production will not be revived, so go while you can. Also this week, to replace the postponed *Orpheus in the Underworld*, a revival (Thurs, 7.30) of the company's *Tosca*, with Phyllis Cannan singing the title role for the first time, and with Gaetano Delogu returning to the pit.

DANCE

SADLER'S WELLS ROYAL BALLET
Sadler's Wells (278 8916). Mon-Sat at 7.30pm, matinées Sat at 2.30pm
The first ballet premiere of the new year is Jennifer Jackson's *Median*, to music by an American composer, Stephen Montague. Featuring Marion Tait and Leanne Benjamin in a cast of 12, it is to be given Thurs-Sat in a bill with Ashton's *Les Patineurs* and a revival of Cranko's *The Lady and the Fool*. The programme until Wed is *La Fille mal gardée*, in which Sandra Madgwick dances Lise this afternoon and (replacing Jennifer Jackson) Mon, Sherilyn Kennedy tonight, Nicola Katrak, Tues and Marion Tait, Wed.

DANCIN' 85
Manchester, Royal Northern College of Music (061-273 4504). Opens Wed, until Jan 16.
Northern Ballet Theatre open the new year with a series of special events intended to give local audiences new insight into their work, including a programme of specially made works by aspiring choreographers, dance films, an open day and a "performance auction." Ring for details and times.

ROCK & JAZZ

NIK KERSHAW
Tonight to Mon, Hammersmith Odeon, Queen Caroline Street, London W6 (748 4081)
Last nights of a long tour to celebrate a successful year for this unexceptionable purveyor of shopping-centre pop.

PETER GREENWELL
Tonight and Mon to Sat, Pizza on the Park, 11 Knightsbridge, London SW1 (235 5550)
Following the defection of Steve Ross to the Ritz, Greenwell takes over the role of Noel Coward revivalist at the Hyde Park Corner pizza basement. On New Year's Eve he will be joined by the superb singer Adelaide Hall, whose performance of Ellingtonia is what might be described as first-hand.

GEORGE MELLY
Tonight and Mon to Sat, Ronnie Scott's Club, 47 Frith Street, London W1 (439 0747)
Barely even second-hand, Melly's Bessie Smith impersonation is nevertheless greatly cherished.

ROCK WEEK
From tonight, ICA Theatre, The Mall, London SW1 (930 3647)
Sponsored by Harp Lager, these series mark the death of rock 'n' roll. But I've said that before, and no one noticed. So avant-rockers will no doubt want to hear The Jesus and Mary Chain (tonight), Microdisney (tomorrow), the Pogues and the Sid Presley Experience (Mon), C-Cat Trance (Wed), King (Thurs) and all the rest.

FAIRPORT CONVENTION
Mon/Tues, Moat House, Banbury (0295 59361); Wed/Thurs, Half Moon, 93 Lower Richmond Road, London SW15 (788 2387); Fri, Queen's Hall, Hexham (0434 606787)
Dave Swarbrick and Simon Nicol are among the illustrious alumni participating in the latest of a now frequent series of revivals of the seminal folk-rock band.

KING/WHITTLE/SMITH
Mon, Bull's Head, 373 Lonsdale Road, London SW13 (876 5241)
This New Year's Eve bebop special features Peter King, the most assured of this country's Charlie Parker disciples, on alto saxophone, the experienced tenor saxophonist Tommy Whittle, and the versatile guitarist Terry Smith.

DANNY ADLER
Mon, Bass Clef, 35 Coronet Street, London N1 (729 2476)
Those who love rhythm 'n' blues, however, will head for the sound of Danny Adler's Delux Blues Band, a loose-jointed quartet featuring the leader's soulful guitar.



Good time boy: George Melly, at Ronnie Scott's Club

GALLERIES

Openings

WHAT'S NEW IN THE ARTS COUNCIL COLLECTION: Chosen by the critic John Spurling; Bruce Bernard, former picture editor of *The Sunday Times;* and artist Rose Garrard, the 42 works in this exhibition are drawn from the council's purchases over the past two years. It is interesting to see how "our" money is being spent: on Frank Auebach, on Richard Wentworth's notorious bucket and on Bruce Mclean's wonderfully titled "Bingo, Bingo, Bango, Bongo" among others.
Darlington Arts Centre, Vane Terrace, Darlington, Co Durham (0325 483271). Opens Wed, until Feb 3, Mon-Sat 10am-8pm.

Selected

LANDSCAPE, MEMORY AND DESIRE Serpentine Gallery, Kensington Gardens, London W2 (402 6057). Until Jan 20, daily 10am-4pm (Closed Jan 1)
Works by six painters all schooled in abstraction who have since moved on to more natural expressionism, with landscape as a connecting theme.

THE ART OF THE ARCHITECT Royal Institute of British Architects, 66 Portland Place, London W1 (580 5533). From Wed until Jan 27, Mon-Sat 10am-6pm, Sun 2-6pm
Fascinating exhibition from the institute's collections. It ranges from designs by the great Renaissance architect Andrea Palladio to Inigo Jones's self-portrait. There is also a selection of models, books and manuscripts.

AESOP'S FABLES Portal Gallery, 16a Grafton Street, London W1 (493 0706). Until Fri, Mon-Fri 10am-5.45pm, Sat 11am-2pm. (Closed Jan 1)
Mixed exhibition of gallery artists illustrating the fables; a great variety of styles, some amusing interpretations and one small, beautifully framed painting by Barry Castle which seems to capture Aesop's enduring insight into human nature.

Anna May Wong by Paul Tanqueray, an exhibition of whose work opens at the Photographers' Gallery on Wednesday. Tanqueray's portraits of film stars and those swept up in London's social whirl during the 1930s capture the easy anodyne innocence of the period when art deco was all the rage. Like Cecil Beaton, Tanqueray would unashamedly use glittering materials in his backdrops to reflect light and create visually seductive images. This, coupled with occasional use of a soft-focus lens, gave rise to the almost iconographic photographs which lent glamour to a celebrity's public face. Contrived and artificial, the photographs are as removed from reality as one can imagine. Even so they have a charm of their own which can not all be attributed to nostalgia.

Michael Young

Forty of Paul Tanqueray's photographs can be seen at the Photographers' Gallery, 5 & 8 Great Newport Street, London WC2. Wed until Mar 1. Tues-Sat 11am-7pm. All prints are for sale at £75 each.

CONCERTS

WIGMORE MASTERS
Today, 7.30pm, Wigmore Hall, 36 Wigmore Street, London W1 (935 2141)
As part of the Wigmore Master Concerts series the Chilingirian Quartet plays Haydn's Quartet Op 76 No 4 "Sunrise," Beethoven's Op 59 No 2, and Jonathan Williams joins in for Mozart's Horn Quintet K 407.

ROYAL PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA/CLEOBURY
Tomorrow, 7.30pm, Barbican Centre, Silk Street, London EC2 (628 8795, credit cards 638 8891)
Nicholas Cleobury conducts the RPO in Mendelssohn's Overture *Fingal's Cave*, Mozart's *Eine Kleine Nachtmusik*, Beethoven's Symphony No 6 "Pastoral"; and Robert Cohen solos in Elgar's Cello Concerto.

COLE/NORTH
Tomorrow, 7.30pm, Wigmore Hall
On the lute, harpsichord and lute-harpsichord, Maggie Cole and Nigel North play Bach's Suites in B flat and G minor, Partita in D, Trio Sonata in F.

VIENNESE NIGHTS
Mon, 7.45pm, Barbican Centre
Besides Johann Strauss I pieces such as *William Tell Galop*, and Johann Strauss II items like *Thunder and Lightning Polka*, the LSO under John Georgiades interprets such rarities as Ziehrer's *Busserl Polka-Mazurka*, Josef Strauss's *Feuerfest Polka* and Eduard Strauss's *Faste Geister Waltz*. There is a repeat performance on January 1 at the same time.

MONTEVERDI/SCHUTZ
Mon, 7.30pm, Wigmore Hall
The King's Consort directed by Robert King, offers Monteverdi's *Christmas Vespers* (1641) and Schütz's *Christmas Story* (1664), with cornetts, sackbutts, and chitarrone.

MARKHAM/NETTLE
Wed, 7.30pm, Wigmore Hall
Richard Markham and David Nettle sandwich the world première of Robert Walker's *Passacaglia* between the original two-piano version of Holst's *The Planets* and Grainger's Fantasy on Gershwin's *Porgy and Bess.*

WHITEAR/HAMBURGER
Thurs, 1.15pm, St John's, Smith Square, London SW1 (222 1061)
Sheelagh Whitear, mezzo soprano, sings Gurney's *Sleep*, Quilter's *Love's Philosophy*, Rautavaara's Shakespeare Sonnets, Rossini's *La Promessa*, and Haydn's *Die Landlust.*

PETERBOROUGH STRINGS
Thurs, 7.30pm, Wigmore Hall
Besides giving the world première of Christopher Brown's *Into the Sun*, the Peterborough String Orchestra play Mozart's Divertimento K 138, Barber's *Adagio*, Stravinsky's Concerto in D.

LONDON PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA/FREEMAN
Fri, 7.45pm, Barbican Centre
Paul Freeman conducts the LPO in Verdi's Overture *La Forza del Destino* and Beethoven's Symphony No 5 while Maximilliano Damerini solos in Brahms's Piano Concerto No 1.

Dance: John Percival; Opera: Hilary Finch; Rock & Jazz: Richard Williams; Concerts: Max Harrison; Galleries: Prudence Hone; Theatre: Anthony Masters; Films: Geoff Brown

THEATRE

Openings

IN NOMINE PATRIS: The Yorkshire Television National Student Theatre Company with a production which won several awards at the Edinburgh Festival 1984. Paula Macgee's piece deals with a young woman's decision to become a nun, and the reactions of her parents, contemporaries and boyfriend, against the background of present-day religious intolerance in Glasgow.
King's Head Theatre Club, 115 Upper Street, London N1 (226 1916). Opens Mon at 1.15pm, until Jan 12, Mon-Sat at 1.15pm. (The play lasts approximately 50 minutes).

ALLEZ BANANES!: Harvey and the Wallbangers, a musical cabaret group, bring their latest show, which was a success at the Edinburgh Festival, to London. Heavy reliance on tunes from the 1930s, 1940s and 1950s. Directed by Rod Natkiel, with special guests.
Bloomsbury Theatre, Gordon Street, London WC1 (387 9629). Opens Mon at 8pm, until Jan 19, Mon-Sat at 8pm. No perf Jan 16.

GERTRUDE STEIN AND A COMPANION: Sonia Fraser directs her own adaptation of a script by the late Win Wells, in which Miriam Margolyes and Natasha Morgan portray Gertrude Stein and Alice B. Toklas, in a show said to "celebrate the companionship and love" shared by the famous pair. It won a Fringe First Award at the Edinburgh Festival.
Bush Theatre, Shepherds Bush Green, London W12 (743 3388). Preview Wed at 8pm; opens Thurs at 7pm. Until Jan 26, Tues-Sun at 8pm.

WINTER: David Mowat's play examines the relationship between a botanist, his wife and daughter and looks at "some of the implications of the manner of 'scientific' thinking". Joanna Hole, Ann Queensberry, Ben Robertson, directed by Eric Standidge. Not suitable for children.
Old Red Lion, St John Street, Angel, London EC1 (837 7816). Previews today and tomorrow at 8pm; opens Tues at 8pm. Until Jan 19, Tues-Sun at 8pm.

GREAT EXPECTATIONS: Peter Coe directs his adaptation of Charles Dickens's novel, in a joint production by the Churchill Theatre Bromley and Birmingham Repertory Theatre. Cast includes Ian McCurrach as Pip, Roy Dotrice as Magwitch, Sheila Burrell as Miss Havisham.
Old Vic, Waterloo Road, London SE1 (928 7616). Previews today, Mon and Tues 1 at 7.30pm; opens Jan 2 at 7pm. Until Feb 2, Mon-Fri at 7.30pm, Sat at 7.45pm; matinées Wed and Sat at 2.30pm.

FILMS

Selected

THE SWING (PG)
Everyman, Hampstead (435 1525)
Percy Adlon, the fastidious German director of *Céleste*, broadens his scope with this leisurely, episodic and bewitching portrait of a Munich family at the end of the century, based on Annette Kolb's autobiographical novel. Grandly filmed with engaging performances and succulent photography.

GHOSTBUSTERS (PG)
Odeon Leicester Square (930 6111)
No point looking for finesse in this supernatural spoof from Bill Murray, Dan Ackroyd, Harold Ramis and directed Ivan Reitman; though for a film costing some $30m, one expects far better special effects.

GREMLINS (15)
Warner West End (439 0791)
Executive producer Steven Spielberg returns to E.T territory with the artful story of small, furry, but not entirely lovable creatures running amok in a cosy little town. Directed by Joe Dante *(The Howling)* with a gloating relish for nightmare horror.

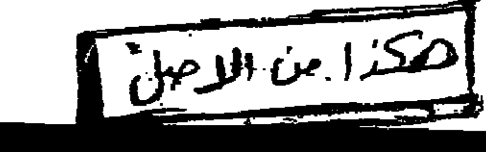
DUNE (PG)
Empire, Leicester Square (437 1234)
David Lynch's expensive, impersonal version of Frank Herbert's science fiction classic about war and intrigue on a desert planet: top-heavy with plots, but visually immaculate. With Kyle MacLachlan, Francesca Annis, and Sting.

THE KILLING FIELDS (15)
Warner West End (439 0791)
Britain's lavish entry into the blockbuster war-movie arena, produced by David Puttnam, directed by television veteran Roland Joffé. Sam Waterston stars as the American journalist covering the Cambodian war helped by a local man (Haing Ngor); fairly impressive in spurts.

A PRIVATE FUNCTION (15)
Odeon Haymarket (930 2738)
Alan Bennett's first cinema script offers the riotous, rude post-war tale of a Yorkshire chiropodist, a wife with social pretentions, and a pig with no social sense at all. Directed by Malcolm Mowbray, with a glorious cast: Michael Palin, Maggie Smith and Denholm Elliott.

FULL MOON IN PARIS (15)
Chelsea Cinema (351 3742)
Camden Plaza (485 2443)
Eric Rohmer's spare, elegant study of a girl trying to keep her men *and* her independence.


War worn: Dr Haing Ngor in The Killing Fields


هكذا من الاصل

THE TIMES **Portfolio**

From your Portfolio card check your eight share price movements. Add them up to give you your overall total. Check this against the daily dividend figure published on this page.

If it matches you have won outright or a share of the total daily prize money stated. If you are a winner follow the claim procedure on the back of your card.

No.	Company	Your gain or loss
	BANKS DISCOUNT HP	
1	Nat West	
2	Midland	
3	Aus New Z	
4	Secombe M	
5	Smith St Aubyn	
6	Mercury Secs	
7	Stand Chart	
8	Ansbacher (Henry)	
9	Provident	
10	Hill Samuel	
	DRAPERY AND STORES	
11	Habitat Mothercare	
12	Dixons	
13	Cantors 'A'	
14	Harris Queensway	
15	Currys	
16	Woolworth	
17	Home Charm	
18	Burton	
19	Goldsmith Gp	
20	Smith (WH) 'A'	
	ELECTRICALS	
21	GEC	
22	VG Instruments	
23	Jones Stroud	
24	CASE	
25	First Castle Elec	
26	Oxford Instruments	
27	Multitone Elec	
28	BSR	
29	Ferranti	
30	Pressac	
	INDUSTRIALS E–K	
31	Fisons	
32	Grampian	
33	Hutchsn Whampoa	
34	Jacksons Bourne	
35	Foseco-Minsep	
36	Evered	
37	Friedland Doggart	
38	Granada	
39	Evode	
40	GEI Int	

 Your Daily Total

Because of non-publication days, there is no £20,000 weekly prize today. However, the weekly prize will recommence from Monday.

Claimants should ring 0254-53272

STOCK EXCHANGE PRICES

Another new peak

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings Began, Dec 24. Dealings End, Jan 11. § Contango Day, Jan 14. Settlement Day, Jan 21.
§ Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days.

THE TIMES **Portfolio**

DAILY DIVIDEND
£2,000
Claims required for
+41 points
Claimants should ring 0254-53272

1984 High	1984 Low	Company	Price		Ch'ge	Gross Div pence	Yld %	P/E
349	250	Gerrard Nat	319		+2	17.1	5.4	8.4
68	45	Guinness Peat	58		+1	0.9	1.6	21.7
165	121	Hambros	153	●	..	9.0	5.9	16.0
16	9	Do (50p)	£13	●	..	89.6	6.9	13.6
369	285	Hill Samuel	316	●	+8	15.4	4.9	8.9
86	48½	HK Shanghai	88		+1½	..b	..	..
313	226	Joseph (Leopold)	238	●	..	16.1	6.9	12.2
178	124	King & Shaxson	172		..	11.8	6.9	14.8
460	320	Kleinwort Benson	380		..	17.9	4.7	9.5
542	422	Lloyds	529		+5	34.9	6.6	4.4
68	49	Lon Scot Fin	58		+1	3.8	6.5	11.3
42	24	Manson	25		+1	1.4	5.7	9.8
425	408	Mercury Secs	418		+5	16.4	3.9	8.8
428	277	Midland	367		+3	36.4	9.9	6.1
280	193	Nat Aust Bk	248	●	-2	..	..	..
596	420	Nat West	592		+5	36.2	6.1	4.8
72	57	Ottoman	£68½		..	450	6.5	10.5
199	144	Provident	195		+4	13.6	7.0	8.3
109	72½	Rea Bros	78		..	1.8	2.3	28.2
20¾	14	Royl Bnk Of Can	£19⅞		+¼	..	..	..
258	164	Royl Bnk Of Scot	254	●	..	12.1	4.8	9.0
908	625	Schroders	728		..	23.6	3.2	12.2
370	280	Seccombe M	380	●	+5	28.6	8.7	10.9
71	48	Smith St Aubyn	65		+3	5.4	9.5	6.2
573	442	Stand Chart	477		+3	40.0	8.4	6.6
783	612	Union	728		..	48.6	6.7	11.9
64	42	Wagon	63		..	3.9	6.2	17.0
41⁷⁄₁₆	23¾	Wells Fargo	£41⁷⁄₁₆		+⅝	..	..	..
255	185	Wintrust	240		..	6.1	2.6	16.2

BUILDING AND ROADS
[illegible]

CHEMICALS, PLASTICS
[illegible]

CINEMAS AND TV
[illegible]

DRAPERY AND STORES
[illegible]

ELECTRICALS
[illegible]

FINANCE AND LAND
[illegible]

FOODS
[illegible]

HOTELS AND CATERERS
[illegible]

INDUSTRIALS A–D
[illegible]

E–K
[illegible]

L–R
[illegible]

S–Z
[illegible]

INSURANCE
[illegible]

LEISURE
[illegible]

MINING
[illegible]

MOTORS AND AIRCRAFT
[illegible]

NEWSPAPERS AND PUBLISHERS
[illegible]

OIL
[illegible]

OVERSEAS TRADERS
[illegible]

PAPER, PRINTING, ADVERT'G
[illegible]

PROPERTY
[illegible]

SHIPPING
[illegible]

SHOES AND LEATHER
[illegible]

TEXTILES
[illegible]

TOBACCOS
[illegible]

BRITISH FUNDS
[illegible]

BREWERIES
[illegible]

BANKS DISCOUNT HP
[illegible]

[illegible]

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THE TIMES
FINANCE AND INDUSTRY
Executive Editor Kenneth Fleet

A year of super-players in the stock market

This year has been remarkable in at least two respects. First, for the emergence of key players in the stock market. Second, for the lustre that has been added to already formidable business reputations.

The word "player" has become one of the most familiar in the language of the stock market. Like many of the modern jargon words, it is American. It is applied to those who have both the power and the professionalism to buy and sell stock on a scale that carries weight both in the market and within companies in whose shares they deal.

The players fall broadly into two categories. The first are the fund managers, employed by pension funds, insurance companies, investment trusts and unit trust management companies to deploy the savings in their charge. With few exceptions they are unknown to the public and because they are directly responsible for their actions to boards of directors they feel, inevitably, that their freedom to act entirely on their own initiative is circumscribed.

Characteristics of a different breed

The second group of players is a different breed. The leading five are seated around the table. Three of them – Lord Hanson (Hanson Trust), Sir Nigel Broackes (Trafalgar House) and Tiny Rowland (Lonrho) – run large, publicly quoted companies and are thus accountable to their boards and their shareholders.

Robert Maxwell heads both a major quoted company (British Printing and Communications Corporation) and a private company (Pergamon). Gerald Ronson is unique in that both Heron International and its major subsidiary, Heron Corporation, are unquoted and privately owned.

The characteristics these five men share are, however, more important than the differences in the corporate environments in which they work. All have established high reputations for their business acumen; they have built up very large corporate empires with considerable power in their industrial spheres; they are strong personalities; they have amassed personal wealth as well as created financial strength within their companies; they remain ambitious; and by virtue of all these shared qualities, they have the power of decision that few, in any around them, are likely to question.

Back from the corporate grave

It says a great deal about Gerald Ronson, for example, that Sir Charles Clore saw him as his successor and he, Gerald Ronson, astutely appreciated that not even an empire as big as the one Charles Clore left would successfully accommodate both him and Charles Clore's life-long ally, Leonard Sainer.

Perhaps the best tribute, of the many, paid to Lord Hanson this year is that he has effectively created within Hanson Trust a corporate finance team that every merchant bank would dearly like to have. The choice, timing and execution of his takeover bids (the latest, for Powell Duffryn, being no exception) have been impeccable.

Of Tiny Rowland it has to be said that even his deadliest enemies admire his charm and his dedication, and no one underestimates his powers.

Robert Maxwell falls almost, but not quite, in to the Rowland category. Both men have come back from the corporate grave to which they were prematurely despatched in government reports to establish formidable businesses and exert major influence.

The fifth man, Sir Nigel Broackes has achieved the seemingly impossible: he has given a conglomerate not only vigorous growth and an enviable profit record, but reputation and that elusive stock exchange accolade, status.



The players (clockwise from bottom left): Hanson, Maxwell, Ronson, Broackes, Rowland

Strengthening dollar pushes sterling to $1.1627

By David Smith, Economics Correspondent

The dollar maintained its rise yesterday, pushing sterling to a new low and overcoming some dollar selling by the West German Bundesbank.

Sterling, which dipped to $1.1570 on Continental markets yesterday, ended at a new London closing low of $1.1627, 16 points down on the day.

The sterling index, which had been down to its lowest yet of 73.0 during the day, ended 0.1 down overall at 73.2.

The dollar opened strong in Europe, quickly rising to over 3.15 against the mark, before slipping back two pfennigs on reports of modest intervention by the Bundesbank.

Later, the dollar recovered to DM3.1420, virtually unchanged on Thursday's close of DM3.1430.

The dollar reacted little to economic statistics released in the United States. Those showed a wider trade deficit and a pick-up in the leading indicators in November. Both figures had been fairly widely anticipated.

The merchandise trade deficit rose to a seasonally adjusted $9.94 billion in October. The deficit for the first 11 months of 1984 is $115.45 billion, almost double the $62.59 billion deficit recorded in the corresponding period of 1983.

United States exports fell 0.1 per cent in November to a seasonally adjusted $18.37 billion, and could be suffering from the effects of the dollar's strength.

Imports rose 2.7 per cent to $28.31 billion in November, seasonally adjusted, reversing the sharp fall in imports in October.

The composite index of leading indicators for the United States economy increased by 1.3 per cent in November, after a revised 0.5 per cent fall in October and 0.9 per cent in September.

A rise in money supply, building permits contracts and orders for plant and equipment, materials prices, net business formations, the average work-week and factory orders boosted the index. Weekly claims for unemployment insurance were down.

Partly offsetting these effects were a decline in credit outstanding and sales performance.

The rise in the index of leading indicators in November, coming after the flash estimate of fourth quarter gross national product, confirms that, while the economy is slowing, it is not about to slide.

Foreign exchange operators are now taking the view that, with the economy still growing, the recent decline in US interest rates may be at an end.

The dollar made general gains yesterday, rising to 250.50 from 250 against the yen its index increasing by 0.1 to 144.6.

The pounc continues to suffer from oil uncertainties, although there was no great pressure from that source yesterday. Sterling lost more than over a pfennig against the mark, at DM3.6510, from DM3.6650 on Thursday.

Baxters to merge with Dewhurst

By Cliff Feltham

Two of the biggest names in the high street butchery business, Baxters and J. H. Dewhurst, are being merged as part of a £24 million deal announced yesterday.

Unilever, the Anglo-Dutch food and detergents group, is starting to recoup some of the £389 million paid for the tea and Oxo group, Brooke Bond, by selling off the loss-making Baxters chain to the multi-million pound Vesty meat empire, which owns the more profitable Dewhurst business.

Through its Union International offshoot, Vestey is merging the chain of 400 Baxters shops with its chain of 1,000 Dewhurst shops to consolidate its position as the largest specialist butchery operation in the country. In cases of overlap it is possible that some shops will close.

Baxters employs 2,900 people.

Brooke Bond acquired Baxters for £11 million in 1974 but the business has suffered recently from the trend away from red meat towards poultry. After two years when it made profits of around £700,000 Baxters slumped to a loss of £600,000 in the year to June 30 on sales of £95 million, and had already been earmarked as target for disposal before Brooke Bond itself fell victim to takeover bids from Tate & Lyle and, subsequently, Unilever.

Mr David Jeffrey, commercial director of Brooke Bond, said a number of approaches for the business had been received, and while the group was satisfied with the price being paid by Union International it was "not over the moon". He added: "We weren't selling for the money but because we felt we weren't involved in that sort of business any more."

A spokesman for Union International said it was not possible to say whether the Baxter name would be retained.

A tradition ends: Tomatin's label, showing the distillery in 1897.

Tomatin Distillers to go into liquidation

By Jeremy Warner

Tomatin Distillers, the loss-making Scotch whisky group, company is going into liquidation after attempts to forge a new financial rescue failed.

Tomatin, which has been distilling Highland malt pot-still whisky from a site on the River Spey, Inverness-shire, since 1897, announced yesterday that it would be effecting a creditors' voluntary winding-up because of a further deterioration in its financial position.

The company's two main bankers, the Royal Bank of Scotland and Investors in Industry (3is), have no floating charge over Tomatin's assets so they have been unable to call in receivers to deal with the insolvency.

A meeting has been called for January 14 to vote on the winding up and shareholders are being told ahead of the liquidation that they cannot expect to salvage anything from the collapse.

Tomatin, which employs about 70 people, half of whom work at the Speyside distillery, was rescued from collapse two years ago when British and Commonwealth Shipping, Scottish Amicable and the Heineken brewing group injected £3 million of new capital into the company.

However, the expected upturn in the Scotch whisky market since then has failed to materialize and heavy losses have persisted.

The Royal Bank of Scotland and 3is are Tomatin's biggest creditors, with about £5.5 million on loan to the company. They have a fixed charge over the company's distillery which is Tomatin's biggest asset.

IMF credit likely for Argentina

By John Lawless

Argentina yesterday secured the high level of commitments from commercial banks worldwide to a new loan of $4.2 billion necessary to get a standby credit from the International Monetary Fund.

The IMF executive board was passed the news shortly after it started a meeting in Washington to consider the Argentine request for a credit worth $1.4 billion, and was confidently expected to approve it and the economic package negotiated with the 14-month-old civilian government in Buenos Aires.

The 320 banks involved had been asked to file their commitments before Christmas and the accumulation of the so-called "critical mass of acceptances" bore the last-minute hallmark of many recent Latin-American debt sagas. In reality, though, the Argentinians have had a far easier time in raising a new loan than their Mexican and Brazilian predecessors.

The crucial level of subscriptiona from banks – never published but known to be 92 per cent – was achieved in less than four weeks.

That was about half the time it took Brazil and, one banker said yesterday, "would have been much quicker than that had the Argentinians been better book-keepers and been able to present the banks with base figures that were not so suspect".

IN BRIEF

Hanson sets offer terms

Hanson Trust last night dispatched its formal offer document to Powell Duffryn shareholders giving details of its £171.5 million takeover bid for the engineering, shipping and fuel distribution group.

The document says that the value of the offer has improved significantly since it was announced on December 14 because of Hanson's strongly rising share price. It says that because of the proposed one-for-two capitalization issue at Hanson, the number of new Hanson shares offered for each three Powell Duffryn shares will be increased from four to six.

Hanson shares rose 9p to 328p. The terms of the offer place a value on each Powell Duffryn share of 437p. Powell Duffryn shares rose 8p to 436p.

Bid denied

Theakston brewers, Matthew Brown, attempted to end takeover speculation surrounding its shares by telling the City it had "received no approach from any quarter regarding a takeover bid."

Stock market men were predicting 1984 could finish in outstanding fashion as the FT 30 share index climbed 16.2 points to a record 945.2 points yesterday.

Market report, page 21

BT reprieve

The Government has decided to return the cheques sent in by would-be investors in British Telecom who made illegal multiple applications, but some applicants may yet be prosecuted.

The National Westminster Bank has raised interest rates for savers and is to apply composite rate tax with effect from January 1, in order to head off any outflow to building societies when bank interest is taxed at source.

Cover record

Hull insurance rates for Kharg Island shipping traffic have risen to their highest level after two attacks on ships in the Gulf in the past week. Insurers are seeking a 12 per cent net of the vessel's value, compared with 4 per cent net last week.

Stores takeover

William Low, the Scottish supermarket group, is buying Laws Stores for £6.85 million.

Ambrosiano successor shows profit

From John Earle, Rome

The ghost of Signor Roberto Calvi, found dead under London's Blackfriars Bridge in June 1982, has finally been laid to rest at Nuovo Banco Ambrosiano, the institution specially formed by seven banks under the sponsorship of the Bank of Italy to inherit the remains of his banking empire here.

The bank is now in profit. A shareholders' meeting in Milan was told that results for the year ending on June 30, showed a net profit of 70 million lira (£31,000). The bank's July to June financial year, resulting from the ailure of the old Ambrosiano in the summer, has been changed to the more usual January to December, and the six months about to end are also expected to show a profit.

The process of consiging Signor Calvi's memory to oblivion is completed by shareholders' approval of a change of name to simply "Nuovo Banco", the "New Bank".

France puts block on steel talks

Brussels, (Reuter) – France yesterday rejected European Commission proposals for talks with Washington on US steel pipe import curbs, calling instead for a meeting of ministers to define a joint position.

France has told the other nine community members in a letter that it would not accept a US ceiling on European sales of pipes and tubes to 7.6 per cent of the US market in 1985 and 1986 without further talks within the community.

Irish diplomats said Dublin would decide later whether to call a meeting of the group's industry ministers before it hands over the community presidency to Italy on Monday.

France wans firm assurances that sales by the French company Vallourec be exempted from the proposed ceiling.

France's rejection, combined with last week's Greek and Italian refusals of Washington's offer, has created a blocking minority among the 10, preventing the group's executive commission from negotiating

European pipe and tube sales took 14.6 per cent of the US market this year, totalling 1.1 million tonnes in the first nine months of 1984, against 475,000 tonnes in the whole of 1983.

The US Government, responding to domestic industry pressure, last month barred all community steel pipe and tube imports for the rest of 1984 and said it would restrict European sales to 5.9 per cent of the US market in 1985 and 1986.

Sell-off for Meditech

By Our City Staff

Bath and Portland, the mineral extraction and construction group, which is the subject of competing takeover bids from Consolidated Gold Fields and C H Beazer, is disposing of Meditech, its pioneering venture for producing an inexpensive version of the medical diagnostic body scanner, to Gresham House and a group of other investors.

Bath and Portland went into the venture four years ago under the group's previous chairman, Sir Kenneth Selby, and has since spent more than £3 million on it.

About £500,000 has been spent in the past year developing Meditech, which employs 40 people at its factory at St Albans, Hertfordshire.

The sell-off has been cleared with the Takeover Panel and Consolidated Gold Fields, Bath and Portland's favoured suitor,

Gresham House, an investment trust, and other investors with members of Meditech's management are to subscribe about £450,000 to a new company, which will acquire Meditech's assets.

Bath and Portland will retain a 15 per cent stake in the ordinary shares and £800,000 worth of cumulative redeemable preference shares.

MARKET SUMMARY

STOCK MARKETS

FT Ind Ord	945.2 (+16.2)
FT- A All Share	489.74 (+9.74)
FT Govt Securities	81.68 (−0.18)
FT-SE 100	1,225.6 (+14.7)
Bargains	14,111
Datastream USM	103.94 (+0.56)
New York	
Dow Jones	1200.75 (−1.76)
Tokyo	
Nikkei Dow	11,542.60 (+29.08)
Hong Kong:	
Hang Seng	1,185.67 (+8.74)
Amsterdam:	181.9 (+0.8)
Sidney: AO	726.1 (+1.6)
Frankfurt:	
Commerzbank	1107.9(+4.6)
Brussels:	
General	158.30 (+0.16)
Paris: CAC	182.4 (+0.1)
Zurich:	
SKA General	323.0 (+0.90)

GOLD

London fixing:
am $309.50 pm $308.80
close $308.75-$309.25
(£265.50-266)
New York:
Comex (latest) $308.55

MAIN PRICE CHANGES

RISES:	
Sutcliffe, Spkman	24 + 4
KCA Drilling	24 + 3
Readicut Int	28 + 3
Arrow Chemicals	51 + 6
E. Upton	36 + 4
Barbican Hldgs	4½ + ½
Burco Dean	20 + 2
Intervis Vid Hldgs	10 + 1
McCorquodale	183 + 17
Bronx Eng	11 + 1
Amber Day	11 + 1
Matthew Brown	310 + 28
Cluff Oil	56 + 5
Keep Trust	16 + 1¼
Wellman	13 + 1
Boddingstons' Brew	88 + 6
Normans Group	74½ + 5
Petranol	225 + 15
Bristol Oil & Mins	30 + 2
Espley Trust	16 + 1
West Group International	81 + 5
Yelverton Inv.	33 + 2
FALLS:	
Pineapple Dance	88 – 12
MJI Corporation	10 – 1
Biochemicals Int	15 – 1
Immediate Bus Sys	32 – 2

CURRENCIES

London:
£: $1.1627 (−0.0016)
£: DM 3.6510 (−0.014)
£: SwFr 3.0090 (−0.0115)
£: FFr 11.18 (0.0325)
£: Yen 291.10 (unchanged)
£ Index: 73.2 (−0.1)

New York:
£: $1.1645
$: DM 3.1375
$ Index: 144.6 (+0.1)

INTEREST RATES

London:
Bank Base: 9¾-9½%
3-month Interbank 10$^{1}/_{16}$-10%
3-month eligible bills: buying rate 9$^{5}/_{32}$-9$^{3}/_{32}$

US:
Prime Rate 10.75%
Federal Funds 8¾%
3-month Treasury Bills 7.73-7.35%
Long bond 102$^{1}/_{32}$-102$^{11}/_{32}$

WALL STREET

Investors cautious

New York (AP-Dow Jones). – Shares were mixed in early trading yesterday but below Thursday's close. The Dow industrial average was down less than a point, the transportation index was up about half a point and the utilities index was losing roughly half a point.

Advances were slightly behind declines. Volume was light to moderate with about 24 million shares traded.

Some analysts remained unconvinced that last Friday's drop in the discount rate was a sufficient spur to move the market upward in 1985.

Mr Greg Smith, research director of Prudence Bache Securities, said: "There is a clear bias toward scepticism right now."

But Mr Norman Fosback, editor of the *Market Logic* Newsletter says his key monetary indicator based on Federal Reserve changes in the discount rate has flashed a "buy" signal for only the 18th time in its 70-year history.

Mr Fosback says that after the previous 17 buy signals the marke, as measured by the Standard & Poor's index, rose an average of 31 per cent in the following year.

Northern Indiana Public Service declined ⅜ to 11⅝. It said it sees a charge to earnings of $121 million if it does not get a rate increase.

Toys R US, which plunged 7⅛ on Thursday stabilized and traded at 40⅜, up ⅛ on 331 500 shares.

COMMODITIES

COFFEE	
Jan	2231–28
Mar	2262–60
May	2260–58

TIN STANDARD	
Cash	9935–9945
Three months	9905–9910
T/O	410
Tone	Steady
TIN HIGH-GRADE	
Cash	9955–9965
Three months	9925–9935
T/O	20
Tone	Quiet

LONDON GOLD FUTURES MARKET

In US $ per oz.	
Feb	309.70–310.00
Vol	58
Tone	Quiet

Month	Wheat Close	Barley Close
Jan	£109.60	£110.90
Mar	£113.00	£113.50
May	£116.75	£116.70
Jly	£118.70	–
Sep	£98.05	£98.00
Nov	£101.25	£101.35

Total lots traded: Wheat 257; Barley 83

APPOINTMENTS

Lloyd's Aviation Underwriters' Association: Mr D. J. Peachey has been elected chairman and Mr R. F. Eliot deputy chairman.

Baring Brothers: Mr M. T. Chamberlayne, Mr G. S. Giles, Mr C. L. A. Irby, Mr J. A. McLaren and Mr A. C. O. McGrath have been appointed directors, and Mr C. E. Derbyshire, Dr F. Haverkamp and Mr J. R. C. Lupton have been made assistant directors.

Allied Hambro: Mr Lawrence Churchill has been made a main board director of Hambro Life Assurance. Mr Ian Lovett is now joint managing director of Dunbar & Co and Mr Ladislav Suchobar, joint managing director, Dunbar & Co.

Midland Bank International: Mr Bernard Giraud has been appointed head of international audit.

Gibraltar Shiprepair: Mr Peter Simonis has been made chairman and Mr Peter Nash a director.

Croda International: Dr K. G. G. Hopkins joins the board from January 1.

Inco Europe: Dr Brian Davison has been appointed director from January 1.

A1 Industrial Products: Mr Peter Griffin has been made managing director of Low Tension Products, Longton and Mr Brian Jones managing director of Unilator, Ruabon.

BETEC PLC: Mr Randall Thomas joins the parent company board on January 1.

INVESTMENT TRUSTS

FINANCIAL TRUSTS

LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES

MONEY MARKETS AND GOLD

From an initial 9½-¼ per cent, interbank money swiftly went to 9⅝-⅜ per cent yesterday. Once the Bank of England had provided an early and substantial round of assistance to the discount houses, rates eased a little to 9⅜-¼ per cent. By midday, they were down to 9-8¾ per cent. The afternoon witnessed some see-sawing of rates, with a dip to 7-6 per cent, followed by 9½-8 per cent then 8-6 per cent before final small trades at about 6 per cent. The periods had a quiet session.

Base Rates %
Clearing Banks 9⅝-9½
Finance House 10½

Discount Market Loans %
Overnight: High 9½ Low 5
Week fixed: 9½-9

Treasury Bills (Discount %)

Buying		Selling	
2 months	9⅜	2 months	9⅛
3 months	9⅜	3 months	9⅛

Local Authority Bonds (%)

1 month	10¼-9⅞	2 months	10¼-9⅞
3 months	10½-9⅞	6 months	10½-9¾
9 months	10⅝-10½	12 months	10¼-9⅞

Sterling CDs (%)

1 month	9⁹⁄₁₆-9⁷⁄₁₆	3 months	9⅞-9¾
6 months	9⅞-9¾	12 months	10¹⁄₁₆-9¹⁵⁄₁₆

Dollar CDs (%)

1 month	8.35-8.25	3 months	8.50-8.40
6 months	8.90-8.80	12 months	9.70-9.50

EURO-CURRENCY DEPOSITS %

Dollar		call	8½-7¼
7 days	8½-8¼	1 month	8¼-8⅛
3 months	8⅝-8½	6 months	9⅛-9⅛
Deutschmark		call	5⅞-4⅞
7 days	5⅝-5½	1 month	5⅝-5½
3 months	5⅝-5½	6 months	5⅝-5½
French Franc		call	11-10
7 days	10⅞-10⅝	1 month	10⅞-10⅝
3 months	10¹³⁄₁₆-10¹¹⁄₁₆	6 months	11⅛-11
Swiss Franc		call	2-1

GOLD

ECGD

Fixed Rate Sterling Export Finance Scheme IV Average reference rate for interest period 3 November, 1984 to 4 December, 1984, inclusive: 9.904 per cent.

TREASURY BILL TENDER

Applications: £508.300m	allotted £100m
Bids at: 97.725%	received 35%
Last week: 97.725%	received 28%
Average rate: £9.1225%	Last week: £9.1133%
Next week: £100m	replace £100m

FOREIGN EXCHANGES

The dollar's advance on foreign exchange markets yesterday was only briefly interrupted by the Bundesbank's sale of a modest quantity of dollars mid-morning.

In the very quiet and thin end-of-year conditions, that was sufficient to pull the dollar back about two pfennigs at one time from its peak of just over DM3.15.

Sterling, meanwhile, had been dragged down at the outset to record *low of $1.1580* in London because of the dollar's strength and worries about downward pressures on oil prices.

STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES

	Market rates day's range December 28	Market rates close December 28	1 month	3 months
New York	$1.1580-1.1660	$1.1620-1.1635	0.11-0.10c prem	0.32-0.29c prem
Montreal	$1.5340-1.5390	$1.5343-1.5374	0.05-0.09c disc	0.06-0.15c disc
Amsterdam	4.1110-4.1410fl	4.1183-4.1304fl	1⅜-1¼c prem	4⅜-3⅞c prem
Brussels	72.98-73.59f	73.12-73.80f	5-10c disc	8-18c disc
Copenhagen	13.0700-13.1200k	13.0812-13.1087k	2½-3¼ore disc	4⅞-6ore disc
Dublin	1.1698-1.1751p	1.1710-1.1720p	46-63p disc	127-157p disc
Frankfurt	3.6347-3.6650m	3.6487-3.6592m	1⅝-1½pf prem	4-3¾pf prem
Lisbon	198.35-198.15e	196.38-197.79e	180-596e disc	525-1640e disc
Madrid	201.35-202.10p	201.37-201.87p	50-65p disc	160-185p disc
Milan	2224.94-2259.70lr	2229.88-2238.57lr	7-12lr disc	21-27lr disc
Oslo	10.5400-10.5800k	10.5539-10.5781k	2⅞-3⅜ore disc	7½-8½ore disc
Paris	11.1950-11.2310f	11.1669-11.2045f	⅞-1⅛c disc	1⅞-3c disc
Stockholm	10.4200-10.4575k	10.4231-10.4482k	1⅝-2ore disc	4¼-5ore disc
Tokyo	289.84-291.84y	290.85-291.40y	1⅜y prem	2⅝-2¼y prem
Vienna	25.60-25.70sch	25.63-25.67sch	6-4⅞gro prem	18⅞-15gro prem
Zurich	2.9957-3.0213f	3.0044-3.0140f	1⅝-1⅜c prem	4-3⅝c prem

Sterling index compared with 1975 was down 0.2 at 73.2 (day's range 73.3-73.1).

OTHER STERLING RATES

Argentina peso	203.03-203.56
Australia dollar	1.4025-1.4055
Bahrain dinar	0.4350-0.4390
Brazil cruzeiro	3678.04-3703.08
Cyprus pound	0.74-0.75
Finland markka	7.5750-7.6250
Greece drachma	141.90-143.90
Hongkong dollar	9.0839-9.0961
India rupee	14.32-14.52
Iraq dinar	n.a.

DOLLAR SPOT RATES

Ireland	0.9935-0.9955
Singapore	2.1740-2.1770
Malaysia	2.4225-2.4255
Australia	0.8275-0.8285
Canada	1.3200-1.3210
Sweden	8.9650-8.9950
Norway	9.0650-9.0950
Denmark	11.240-11.280
West Germany	3.1405-3.1435
Switzerland	2.5900-2.5950
Netherlands	3.5500-3.5550

Rates supplied by Barclays Bank HOFEX and Extel. *Lloyds Bank International.

AUTHORIZED UNIT TRUSTS

INSURANCE BONDS AND FUNDS

مكرر من الاصل

STOCK MARKET REPORT

Shares race to a record as institutional buyers return

By Derek Pain

Equities were in record breaking form yesterday. Although trading was thin there was hardly a seller in sight and double figure gains stretched throughout the list.

At the close the FT 30 share index was standing impressively at 945.2 points, up 16.2 points. And the FT–SE index was registering a 1,225.6 points peak, a 14.7 points gain.

Shares achieved their previous high in the week before Christmas.

The Opec price monitoring agreement helped improve sentiment yesterday but the real spur was the unexpected appearance of a few institutional buyers around mid-morning.

There was active trading yesterday in Normans Group, the old Singlo Holdings. The shares of the cash-and-carry group jumped 5p to 74½p on renewed whispers of a bid. Favourite to strike is Argyll Group, the sprawling food empire created by Mr James Gulliver.

Other investors took their cue from the big battalions and with jobbers short of stock there was a festive array of gains.

With market men predicting further progress on Monday 1984 could go out on a record breaking note.

But once again Government stocks missed the fun. As sterling remained depressed they suffered falls of up to £¼.

Among leading shares to romp ahead was **Hanson Trust**, the current stock where almost every fund manager feels he must be deeply involved, **Hawker Siddeley**, on export hopes, **Vickers**, helped by a stockbroker circular, and **Grand Metropolitan** which recovered some lost ground.

Oils, deeply depressed of late, continued to rally led by **British Petroleum, Britoil and Lasmo.**

But it was among consumer shares where a great deal of the buying action occured. Beers were in particularly fine form. **Matthew Brown**, despite denials of any bid approach, continued their merry progress, closing at 310p a 28p gain on the day and a 90p Christmas plus.

The Brown excitement rubbed off on other regionals such as **Boddingtons' Breweries** (up 6p at 83p); **Vaux Breweries** (3p at 258p) and **Wolverhampton and Sudley** (6p at 270p).

But the nationals, which have made most of the running this year, were again in demand with **Bass** reaching 483p; **Allied-Lyons** 161p and **Arthur Guiness and Sons** a further 12p higher at 232p.

Guinness has advanced 29p since it announced last weekend the acquistion of the Neighbourhood convenience stores chain. Its progress has given rise to suggesions that a significant shareholding is being built up in he roup.

Stores were helped along by messages of cheer about the level of Christmas trading and the likely level of sale activity. **MFI, debenhams Burtin Group** and **Dixons Group** recorded progress.

J Hepworth was at one time 11p higher at 175p, ahead of the arrival as chief exectutive of Mr George Davies, the man who created Hepworth's highly successful Next stores chain.

Jaguar, privitized last summer at 165p a share, powered ahead again yesterday, surging 12p to 254p. Last year's production was a record 33,437 vehicles and the group has disclosed extensive plans for Continental expansion. W. Greenwell and Co, the stockbroker, forecasts the current year's profits at £95.2 million, against £50 million. American investors have displayed keen interest in the shares.

Amng export shares to receive attention were **Pilkington Brothers, Davy International and Thorn EMI.**

Attwood, the waste disposal group, held at 83p. There was vague talk of a pending expansion announcement.

Wolverhampton Steam Laundry was also unchanged - at 39p. Although WSL is under the impression that Mr Tony Berry, chairman of Blue Arrow, has a near 20 per cent shareholding, it seems that it is a former Blue Arrow man, Mr David Ellingham who has the stake.

However, under the Ellingham influence, WSL could soon launch an expansion move, possibly into industrial cleaning.

Tea shares reamained in favour with **Eastern Produce** gaining 17p to 370p.

Mercantile House Holdings rose 15p to 337p on continuing talk of a deal with Merrill Lynch. Banks were firm; insurances also made progress.

British Telecom featured in the peak making session, hitting its own record high of 104p, before easing ½p to 103½p.

In a firm food sector **Rowntree Mackintosh** recaptured just a little of its former take over exuberance, up 8p at 383p. **Banks Hovis McDougall** drew comfort from the cheerful tone of the yearly report, rising 3p to 128p.

Pineapple Dance Studios fell after its recent sharp advance, losing 12p to 88p as speculators took their profits.

MJI Corporation, the old Maurice James Industries, was another casualty, falling 1p to 10p. **Biomechanics International** was also a loser, with a 1p fall to 15p.

Charterhouse J. Rothschild was up 5p to 108p, helped by the recent sale of its Hambro Life Assurance shareholding to bidders, BAT Industries.

Good Relations, the public relations firm which was hit on Christmas Eve, continued to claw back lost ground rising 11p to 256p. It started the week at 280p.

Powell Duffryn, reflecting the strength of bidders Hanson, gained 10p to 438p.

Queens Moat Houses was unchanged at 58p. The Kuwait Investment Office has increased its shareholding to 8.6 per cent.

Tarmac, the construction group, was 2p stronger at 522p. The placing of 14.3 million shares following the acquistion of certain assests of Lone Star Industries in Florida has now become unconditional.

Haden, on renewed take over hopes, advanced 8p to 192p and another to attract speculative attention was Readicut, up 3p at 28p.

Shares of The Distillers Co, the spirits group, edged ahead 2p to 290p yesterday as Mr John Walters, analyst at Laurie, Milbank and Co, the stockbroker, recommended that they should be sold. Despite the "more dynamic management" he remains unimpressed with prospects and points out that the shares are now on a higher rating than for some years.

Aeronautical and General Investments was unchanged at 330p as the Swiss Landis and Gyr group made certain winning control.

The Swiss already had the support of shareholders representing 48. 1 per cent of the Aero capital. Now they have purchased through the market a further near 2 per cent. Landis and Gyr's financial advisers, S. G. Warburg and Co. has 0.7 per cent of Aero.

The bid is 330p a share, priceing Aero at £13.3 million. The company has for long been a takeover favourite and its shares have, in recent months, been active on continuing bid speculation.

Burgess Products, one of the year's best performing shares, rose 2p to 120p as 700,000 shares were placed with Mr L. A. Mortimer, the chairman.

COMPANY NEWS

● **BRITANNIA SECURITY GROUP:** On Dec 21 Britannia allotted 1,310,889 ordinary – part of the consideration payable for the share capital of both Arlefcourt Associated Alarms and Paroc – now called Britannia Communications. On the same date Mr T. A. Dunne, a director of Britannia, sold 250,000 Britannia shares.

The total of 1,560,889 shares has been placed with institutions.

● **MONOPOLIES CLEARANCES:** The Secretary of State for Trade and Industry has decided not *to refer to the Monopolies and* Mergers Commission the proposed merger between the UK offshoot of Nestle SA (Switzerland) and Carnation (USA) Nestle Holdings (UK) and Carnation Ltd.

He has also given his consent to proposals for United Newspapers to become a newspaper proprietor of the newspapers owned by the Yellow Advertiser Group, a free newspaper publisher. The proposals form part of United Newspaper's bid for Link House Publications.

● **HUNTING PETROLEUM SERVICES** has agreed to acqire Solvolene Lubricants for a total consideration of £1.15 million of which £850,000 will be satified by the issue of 634,28 ord. shares in Hunting and the balance of £300,000 will be payable in loan notes redeemable on April 30.

The consideration is subject to *downward adjustment in the event* that the accounts of Solvolene for the year 1984 show net assets of less that £460,000.

● **HOSKINS AND HORTON:** For the offers made by Scottish Heritable Trust for the issued share capital of H and H other than that already owned by a subsidiary of SHT acceptances have been received in respect of 16,118 ordinary and 2,397 preference. Prior to the offers, a subsidiary of SHT held 782,500 H and H ordinary shares. Accordingly, SHT now owns, (through a subsidiary) or has received acceptances in respect of 798,618 ordinary (29.40 per cent) and 2,397 preference (11.98 per cent). The offers have been further extended until Jan 10.

Base Lending Rates

ABN Bank	9½%
Adam & Company	9½%
Barclays	9¾%
BCCI	9½%
Citibank Savings †	10¾%
Consolidated Crds	9¾%
Continental Trust	9½%
C. Hoare & Co *	9½%
Lloyds Bank	9½%
Midland Bank	9½%
Nat Westminster	9½%
TSB	9½%
Williams & Glyn's	9½%
Citibank NA	9½%

† Mortgage Base Rate.

* 7 day deposits on sums of under £10,000, 6¼%; £10,000 up to £50,000, 7¼%; £50,000 and over, 8%.

RECENT ISSUES

	Closing Price
Access Satellite Int 5p Ord (150a)	192+4
Alida Holdings 25p Ord (140a)	167
Appledore A & P 10p Ord (87)	88
Breakmate 10p Ord (100a)	115
CVD Inc Com Stock $0.01 (105a)	150
Candover Inv 25p Ord (180)	206+13
Craton Lodge & Knight 1p Ord (115a)	195–1
GBC Capital Com Shares NPV	92
Gabicci 5p Ord (78a)	96
Hawtal Whiting 5p Ord (197a)	263
Instem 10p Ord (145a)	235–3
Kingsley & Forester 20p Ord (82)	83½
Klark-Teknik 5p Ord (85a)	115
Media Technology 20p Ord (117a)	176
PSM Int 25p (140)	168+1
Penny & Giles 25p Ord (130a)	151
Plasmec 10p Ord (70a)	74
Process Systems Com Stk ($0.025)	94–1
Shares Drug Stores 10p Ord (140a)	204
Stone International 20p Ord (125)	143
T & S Stores 5p Ord (a)	119
U D O Holdings 10p Ord (110a)	124
Wardle Storeys 10p (132)	168+1
Williams (R) Leisure 5p Ord (20a)	22

Issue price in parentheses a Unlisted Securities, * by tender.

TEMPUS

Japan gains on Wall Street

Some of the world's fringe stock market s enjoyed a frolicksome time during 1984. The tiny Mexico market, for example, put on some 77 per cent, partly on debt rescheduling hopes, and thereby completed a second year of recovery.

According to data prepared by Symon Bradford of Wood Mackenzie, the Madrid market, much fancied for its improving corporate profits trend and impending EEC membership, improved by nearly 57 per cent.

But the world's leading stock markets turned in some sprightly running London and Tokyo performed well, while European markets, like Germany, Italy, Belgium and France, were firm.

Arguably, London fund managers enjoyed a highly quixotic experience. British equities put on about 30 per cent, but this improvement is dwarfed by some of the gains which might have been enjoyed in other markets, when translated back into sterling.

Such has been the scale of sterling's devaluation that Hong Kong's rise of 40 per cent stretches, in pound terms, to a 73 per cent improvement. Tokyo gains, in the same basis, were 43 per cent.

Sadly, however, the cream of these gains may have been missed. British institutions spent most of 1984 building up their domestic liquid resources, ahead of the British Telecom flotation.

In contrast with these overall gains, Wall Street, stands out as a dull player indeed. American equities, as measured by the Standard and Poor's Composite Index, put on just 6 per cent, leaving the world's leading stock market way down in the relegation zone.

Analysts have been quick to indentify Wall Street's underperformance as the stock market story of the year. They are confident that they understand why.

Although the US has been running a wildly expansionary fiscal policy, which ought in theory to have boosted equities, such is the weakness of the US corporate sector, when combined with the strong dollar, that the Japanese companies may have reaped most of the rewards from the Reagan Federal deficit this is why Tokyo has been so buoyant.

Dr Richard Coghlan of the *Financial Economist* puts the point succinctly. For the United States to enjoy real growth of 4 per cent, it needs to grow at twice that rate, since the trade deficit is now worth about 4 per cent of GNP.

Japanese economic data confirms the picture. In October, Japan's exports improved by more than 18 per cent to $14 billion (£12 billion), while exports to the United States jumped by more than 37 per cent.

It would be unwise, however, to assume that the continued erosion by Japanese companies of United States domestic markets will be allowed to continue indefinitely. According to one scenario, American policy makers will be preoccupied, for a number of reasons in 1985, with the effort to reduce the dollar's present over-valuation.

This would have the effect, in theory, of scaling down the appeal of foreign goods, while boosting at the same time, the United States corporate sector's export performance.

Sterling's continued devaluation has helped boost exports, and pushed the stock market to new highs. Hence, 1985 could see a resurgence in the Wall Street bull market.

But the policy mix which pushes the dollar down while supporting the bond market, will be hard to find. Meanwhile, an analysis of sector trends in world markets suggests that the present recovery in demand, may be fairly shallow.

In the third quarter of 1984, the bottom five sectors in world terms, textiles; steel; construction; shipping; and gold mines.

The marked underperformance of the Australian market, with its exposure to basic raw material demand, conveys a smiliar message. Hence any move by the United States to revive the momentum of world demand, may simply be too late and peter out.

On the assumption that Tokyo may have benefited most from the Reagan fiscal profligacy, it may be wise to expect an early sign from Japanese markets.

FAMILY MONEY

Few bright spots on personal

What will 1985 bring on the personal finance front? There is no doubt that pensions will remain a controversial issue in the coming months with the Government committed to introducing some form of portability, giving members of occupational schemes the right to take a lump sum transfer value from their former employer's pension scheme to reinvest in either the new employer's scheme, or a personal pension plan.

Against this, the Chancellor has failed to scotch repeated rumours that he intends to cut tax concessions on pension provisions and early 1985 is likely to see a flood of early retirements before Budget day on March 19. The most likely target for any cut in pension tax concessions is the tax-free lump sum which can be taken at retirement.

Child benefit is also vulnerable with rumours of it becoming taxable in the Budget. This is not unreasonable provided the money saved is used to increase child benefit and particularly the supplement available to single parents.

These families would not be affected by tax on child benefit, but would find their situation improved enormously by an increase to a figure which represented the real cost of keeping a child.

Wilder speculation concerns a possible cut in the tax concessions available to parents and grandparents who maintain a child through a deed of covenant. This would hit parents with children at university who are already under pressure because of the increase in the parental contribution scales; and the abolition of the statutory minimum student grant of £205 a year.

However, tax relief on deeds

Peter Edwards: "No sure fire winners"

of covenant could be costing the Exchequer as much as £1,000 million a year so it is an obvious focus of attention for a cost-cutting Chancellor.

Mrs Thatcher has gone on record as being unwilling to see any reduction in mortgage interest relief, although she might approve a restructuring which would reduce the relief to basic rate only while raising the ceiling, now £30,000.

On investment, the Government in conjunction with the financial institutions will continue to plough on towards some form of investor protection, although there seems little hope that it will incorporate the vital provision – compensation.

Without a bonding scheme, similar to that operated by travel agents, or insurance, the proposed legislation will do little or nothing to ease the situation of the small investor who loses his life savings in the collapse of an investment firm.

The Chancellor has shown himself unwilling to rethink the taxation system. So it is almost certain that in 1985 it will continue to pay to live with your partner rather than marry.

The tax advantages of remaining single are enormous. Wives will continue to complain about the inequity of having their investment income taxed as though it were their husbands' income. Husbands will continue to complain at having to pay tax on income they do not receive.

Television licence fees will go up, although not by as much as the BBC would like. We already know that bus and tube fares are to be increased and it seems likely that British Rail will put up its fares, too.

The only bright spot on the horizon is the building societies which will continue to be flush with funds, making mortgage money freely available – and not just for buying houses. Next year will see an increasing number of societies prepared to lend (without tax relief) for the purchase of cars and household goods.

We have also asked some of the experts what they see in their crystal ball for 1985. Here is what they have to say . . .


Derek Fellows: "Two main pensions issues"

Derek Fellows

Chief Actuary, Prudential Assurance.

On the pensions scene, two issues will predominate. First, the personal pensions concept is likely to gain ground; but hopefully this will be achieved by allowing more freedom within the existing structure rather than by any radical, and administratively costly, extension of arrangements for contracting out of state benefits.

Secondly, there is the taxation issue. The propriety of continuing to allow income, set aside for retirement, to be exempt from tax prior to receipt will, I think, be recognized. Otherwise there could be serious consequences for employers, employees and the self-employed; and funded private provision would be discouraged.

In life assurance, we shall see a widening of the range of products marketed, from policies offering long-term and flexible facilities for protection and investment to short-term contracts where the emphasis is on savings. It is likely that life offices will move more strongly into the unit trust market.

Peter Edwards

Premier Unit Trust Brokers

Unit trust investors will do well again in 1985, if they stay alert. Sleepy investors could lose money for a change. Like 1984, but unlike 1982 and 1983, there is no single sure fire winning market at this stage – a question mark over the US economy and currency sees to that.

So our present advice is to start with a prudent spread across the three main equity markets of Japan, America and Britain – say 30 per cent in each. Do not plunge too heavily into one or another just yet. There is a good case for each – and pitfalls – so keep a sensible balance. Wall Street needs both reassurance that recession is *not* around the corner, and the political lead on the deficit. It should get both quite soon. If so, watch out for fireworks. Until then there continues to be good scope in Tokyo and London for the able fund manager.

Mary Blair

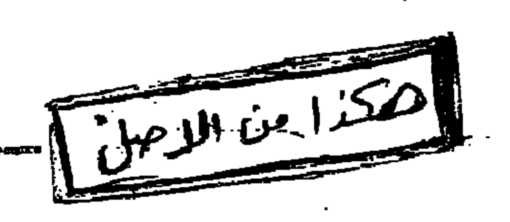
Fidelity Unit Trusts

Crystal ball gazing is always a difficult, if not impossible task. However, we do have our views and recommendations for 1985.

We believe that 1985, like 1984, will be a challenging environment for unit trust investors, but that carefully selected portfolios should again achieve a significant return.

Income driven investment, which essentially means buying selected high yielding stocks with rerating potential, proved particularly successful in 1984 as demonstrated by the performance of our American income trusts. We believe that in 1985, the swing from growth-orientated to income stocks will continue in America and hence we would recommend a high-yielding American trust such as Fidelity American Equity Income Trust.

Similarly in Britain with the market at a record, we favour the more defensive portfolio of



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Exchange market costly for Gould

By Stuart Jones

Bobby Gould yesterday became the eleventh managerial casualty of the season when he was dismissed by Coventry City. Don Mackay, formerly in charge of Dundee and an insurance salesman before being appointed as his assistant only in October, is to take over until the end of the season.

Gould, aged 39, left Bristol Rovers to become Dave Sexton's successor 18 months ago. He immediately and successfully transformed the side and, after completing an astonishing 4-0 victory over Liverpool last December, Coventry lay fourth in the first division. But their fall was to be even more dramatic than their rise.

Lack of consistency was the problem, not so much of results (although they usually lost) as of selection. Gould, who played for nine clubs in his 16-year career proved to be even more active in the transfer market. He was involved in no fewer than 45 deals.

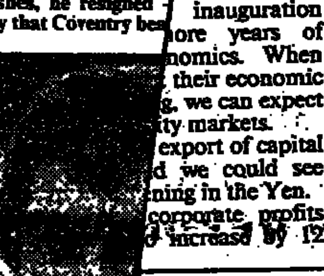
When he arrived most of the senior players were nearing the end of their contracts and Gould, once the assistant manager at Aldershot, went down into the lower divisions to look for promising and inexpensive material. But such was the rate of movement in and out of Highfield Road that the main gates became swing doors.

Players were exchanged at bewildering speed and, not surprisingly, the team remained unsettled. Even though he recently bought more recognized if ageing talent, Regis and Barnes, the team's form remained steady and John Po... Coventry's chairman, decided ... Gould's three-year contract.

Coventry finished nineteenth ... season, two points above the ... line, and are now 21st, two ... below it. As the adjacent ... shows, they have won only ... their 42 League games ... during which their defensive ... has been by far the worst ... division.

Nor are they likely to end ... on an optimistic note. ... United, their visitors to... away at Tottenham Ho... leaders, on Boxing Day ... seeking their third succe... Highfield Road. Before ... Gould helped Mackay ... side showing two changes ... which lost at Luton.

Mackay, aged 44, ... than 300 games in goal ... United and acted as ... Southend United and ... before gaining manag... ence in Denmark. After ... board sold a player ... wishes, he resigned ... day that Coventry be...



Gould: pro...

Struel ... dire... leave...

Malcolm S... the chief exe... Swansea C... director to l... months, stre... had nothin... boardroom ... new manag... supported w...

"It is ap... quickly id... nesses wh... tackled du... Struel said...

Struel, ... years, wa... John To... manager ... from the ... of the fir...

He ... unceasin... the ve... providi... ours. "... change ... overdu...

He ... month... depart... time ... millio...

Ha...

FAMILY MONEY

...e horizon

...er cent and the strength of the market has not been shaken by the miners' strike or the British Telecom flotation.

In summary for 1985 the patient man would choose America, the cautious Britain. Anyone with a gambling instinct might risk a small investment in Hong Kong.

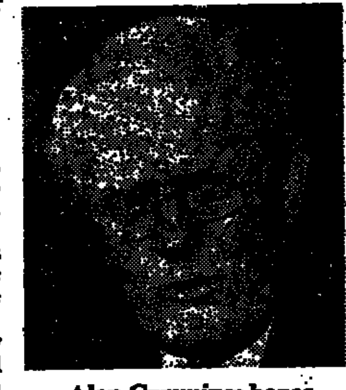


Peter Hargreaves: outlook "foggy"

Alan Cumming

Chief General Manager, Woolwich Building Society

This year has seen some rather extravagant competition on interest rates between building societies and I hope that 1985 will see a restoration of order to what has at times become a rather disorderly market. A state of disarray of interest rates was a not surprising result of the break-up of



Alan Cumming: hopes for more order

the Building Societies Association's system of recommended interest rates. But I hope that things will now settle down. A state of disorder cannot be beneficial to consumers in general. At the Woolwich we believe we are making a big contribution to stability in the industry by taking a lead with our flat rate mortgage pricing policy and by seeking to simplify our range of investment accounts.

The key issue in 1985, in my view, is whether the Government can cut interest rates. With an inflation rate of less than five per cent, real interest rates are very high. I hope that some reduction will be possible although I realize that while this is good news for borrowers it is, of course, bad news for investors.

The extent of the change of the balance should not be great and the disadvantage to investors should be outweighed by greater stability.

Mark Daniels

Equitable Life

I predict that in 1985 people will want to secure what they regard as suitable life assurance protection so that in the event of death their dependants are looked after.

I further predict that people who want a decent standard of living in retirement, and in particular those who see merit in security of income without depending on capital assets will in 1985, be interested in pension planning.

Peter Higgs

Prolific Unit Trusts

We are optimistic about the prospects for world markets, despite the evident slow down in the US economy. Inflation is generally under control and there are good prospects for lower US interest rates

In our view the US market offers the greatest potential. Although we are uncertain about the timing, when the rise comes it could be very sharp.

Wall Street has been strongly outperformed by both Tokyo and London during 1984 and it is most unlikely that this will be repeated in 1985. The US market is historically very cheap but, before it gets going, it really needs a clearer indication that the budget deficit is going to be tackled and that interest rates are going to fall.

Conversely the dollar looks overvalued against most of the leading currencies and we believe that US unit trusts should at least partially be hedged against future dollar weakness.

Japan and Britain probably offer less downside risk, but the US the greatest upside potential.

Recommendations: Prolific North American and Prolific Technology.

(Fragments of a partly hidden column: ...s will ...hoices ...type of ...be in ...nations. ...their ...towards ...will be ...es in the ...ty. This ...lignment ...ith other ...ves ...ne ...crystal ball ...'s viewing ...ext year is ...tors should ...three main ...erica looks ...n looks the ...remains the ... all equity ... preoccupied ...ficit and high ... the United ...New Year we ... Reagan to ... inauguration ...ore years of ...nomics. When ... their economic ...g, we can expect ...ty markets. ... export of capital ...d we could see ...ning in the Yen. ... corporate profits ... increase by 12)

LEGISLATION

...pair aid for suspect homes

...s who purchased ...om their local auth... find they qualify for ...epair grants under ...tion.

...ousing Defects Act ...me into force on ...1. It gives some ... to people who have ...cal authority prefabri... ...nforced concrete dwell... ...h the Government has ...ted" as being suspected of suffering from structural deterioration.

People in this position are now eligible to apply to the local authority for assistance with repairs. The authority can then decide whether to help through a "reinstatement" grant or simply by repurchasing the property. The repurchase choice is only available in the case of flats. In giving the grant to homeowners, the authority must specify exactly what is needed to reinstate the property and the cost of the work.

The legislation could affect a large number of people. So far no fewer than 22 types of prefabricated concrete dwellings in England and Wales and 12 in Scotland have been designated. It is not yet clear, however, what the total cost of repairs is likely to be.

Richard Thomson

BENEFITS

New disability allowance gives rise to confusion

The end of last month saw the last advent of a new disability benefit – the Severe Disablement Allowance (SDA).

The Department of Health and Social Security is issuing advertisements for its explanatory leaflets providing the public with a fail-safe guide to the new allowance.

But the leaflet leaves all but the initiated few pretty confused about eligibility for SDA and the rules which cover award of the allowance. Consequently, the Spastics Society, the Disability Alliance, and the Royal Association for Disability and Rehabilitation (Radar), have jointly produced an alternative leaflet which, they believe, gives a much simpler and clearer guide (claim forms, however, are only available in the DHSS leaflet).

But first, what is SDA?

The allowance was introduced in the Health and Social Security Act 1984 and, though initially promoted as an attempt to remove the iniquitous "household duties" test (for the purposes of the non-contributory invalidity pension for housewives) has become part of the Government's cost-cutting measures.

Before the new legislation, the NCIP was payable to those who, as a result of longterm sickness or disability, were incapable of work for which an employer would pay.

Inequality has always been a hallmark of the social security system but in 1979 an EEC directive stipulated that by January 1985, all member states had to equalize their social security arrangements. Faced with the prospect of challenges being raised in the European Courts, the Government had to come up with a viable alternative to the household duties test. Rather than simply abolishing the test, the Government instead abolished NCIP for everybody.

Qualifying Benefits

1. Attendance or mobility allowance.
2. War pensioners mobility supplement.
3. If you have an invalid tricycle, DHSS car, or private users car allowance.
4. If you are registered with your local authority as blind or partially sighted.
5. If you have already been assessed as 80 per cent disabled for the purposes of industrial injuries benefit or for a war disablement pension.
6. If you have received a vaccine damage payment.

The result is that all prospective claimants now have to satisfy a dual test: first, that they are incapable of work for which an employer would pay, and secondly, that they achieve an assessment of 80 per cent loss of faculty, or severity of disablement – in most cases.

However, there are exceptions to the rule. First, if you already qualify for NCIP or the housewives equivalent (HNCIP) you will automatically be transferred to SDA.

Secondly, for those aged below 20, you need only show that you are incapable of work.

For those still at school or in further education, you have to satisfy the following:

If you are 16, 17 or 18 and still at school/in further education, you can undergo a course of instruction and claim SDA, providing the course does not exceed 21 hours tutor-contact time a week.

If, in the above case, the tutor-contact time exceeds 21 hours, this will still be acceptable providing the extra hours have been arranged specifically because of your disability – so extra braille classes would not count.

Otherwise, qualifying for SDA rests on the dual tests of registering an incapacity for work and an assessed loss of faculty of 80 per cent. Or does it?

It has been agreed that the DHSS doctors will be unable to cope with the flood of assessment needs generated by new SDA claims. So for the purposes of this new allowance, certain benefits have been earmarked as "passports" to the allowance.

In other words, if you are incapable of work and receive any of the benefits listed in the table you will be deemed to be 80 per cent disabled and, therefore, entitled to SDA.

If none of the above applies to you, take heart. Because the DHSS is operating assessments along the same lines as for industrial injuries, if you receive an assessment of 75 per cent plus, this will be rounded up to 80 per cent.

For a sum of, £20.45 a week, at the time of writing, it all sounds like too much trouble. Nevertheless, an "as of right" income maintenance benefit, is always preferable to a means-tested benefit and as many people as possible should be encouraged to apply – despite the discouraging terms of the DHSS leaflet.

The three organizations listed below have produced a very useful leaflet and, though it will be necessary for claimants to obtain the DHSS equivalent – largely because it incorporates the claim form – the alternative leaflet will prove invaluable to anyone filling in, and trying to understand the DHSS form.

Stamped addressed envelopes to: The Spastics Society, 12 Park Crescent, London W1N 4EQ; The Disability Alliance, 25 Denmark Street, London WC2 and Radar 25 Mortimer Street, London W1.

Linda Avery

FAMILY MONEY

SURVEY

Investment trusts 'lag behind'

Investment trusts proved a poor investment last year, according to a survey by Wood, Mackenzie, the Edinburgh stockbroking firm.

They lagged well behind other British equities though the previous year they outperformed the FT Actuaries all share index handsomely.

Wood, Mackenzie attributes this mainly to weakness on Wall Street, especially among smaller companies, and to what proved to be premature currency hedging against a dollar fall.

However, there were some notable exceptions, both among the individual trusts and the management groups.

Ten trusts produced a price total return more than ten points better than the FT A all share index over the 12 months to the end of November. Two trusts from the Baillie Gifford stable, Winterbottom Energy and Baillie Gifford Japan, produced total returns in excess of 50 per cent

These funds, with Mid Wynd International in fifth place, and Scottish Mortgage in twelfth place, helped the Edinburgh-based Baillie Gifford to emerge as the top group in price total return over the 12-month period.

Of the largest fund management groups in the survey, the wooden spoon went to another Edinburgh group, Ivory & Sime, which was hit particularly hard by weakness in American markets.

Investment trusts performance in year to November 30

	Price total return 12 months
Winterbottom Energy	164.5
Baillie Gifford Japan	155.4
F & C Eurotrust	144.3
TR Pacific Basin	142.5
Mid Wynd International	141.9
Outwich	141.7
TR City of London	136.9
New Tokyo	136.8
Keystone	135.7
Drayton Far Eastern	135.6
Fleming Japanese	135.2
Scottish Mortgage	134.9
London & St Lawrence	134.1
Lake View	133.6
Shires	133.6
General Consolidated	133.5
Murray Income	133.5
Lowland	133.4
Scottish Eastern	132.9
Scottish Cities	132.7

Jeremy Warner

Sickbed payments

A new company has entered the competitive health insurance market. Personal Assurance plans to open for business next month when it has received government authorisation.

The company will offer fixed-benefit payments from a choice of two schemes. The Personal Hospital Plan will pay up to a maximum of £900 a month. This covers claims involving a visit or stay in hospital.

The Personal Sick Pay Plan, with a similar level of cover, pays out for absence from work due to illness. It is aimed at self-employed and hourly-paid workers who are not normally eligible for sick pay.

Personal Assurance, with £1 million capital, is based at Milton Keynes. Its backers include Refuge Assurance, GT Management and County Bank Development Capital. The director, Mr Christopher Johnson, is a former managing director of Multiple Brokerage.

Telephone tips

Unit trust investors who want to hear investment opinions straight from the horse's mouth need only reach for the telephone and dial Britannia, the unit trust management group. The company's Viewpoint telephone service gives the caller a three-minute recording of how Britannia sees the outlook for world stock markets in the new year.

The service was set up in January 1983. Since then it has received about 60,000 calls. The Viewpoint number is 01-341 5656.

Noble prospect

The Platinum noble is to be the first coin to carry the Queen's new effigy next year. The coin, launched just over a year ago, weighs one ounce and its value is directly linked to the market price of platinum, now standing at about $360 per ounce.

The 1985 noble is available from Ayrton Metals, 30 Ely Place, London EC1N 6RT.

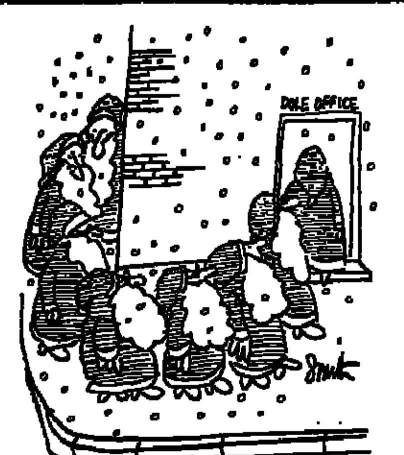
New unit trust

Granville Investment Management has entered the unit trust market with its Granville Capital Unit Trust. The main aim of the trust is to provide long-term capital growth with some income element. It will be invested principally in British companies with a proven track record. It may also, however, invest overseas from time to time or in fixed interest investments. The main foreign markets are likely to be the US and Japan.

Although Granville is known for its participation in the over-the-counter securities market, the new fund will not participate in this.

The minimum investment in the fund is £500 with a 5 per cent initial charge and 1 per cent annually (although the deeds allow the annual charge to go up to 2 per cent).

Granville Investment Management was set up in 1982 as a subsidiary of Granville and Co. It manages about £3.5 million worth of funds belonging to individuals, pension funds and charities.



Mix of investments

Equity & Law is introducing a composite fund from the beginning of the new year to help clients achieve more readily the company's recommended discretionary mix of investments. The company already offers a mixed fund and a sector fund, but these are for clients who wish to make their own decisions about which sectors to invest in.

Student offer

Towry Law is introducing the Student Bond, which takes advantage of the new tax position of friendly society tax exempt schemes since the Budget. The bond is based on the Family Assurance Society's Family Bond. Before the budget, tax-exempt schemes were restricted to married people or those with dependants. Now anyone aged over 18 can have one.

The maximum investment allowed is £8.65 per month, or £100 a year, to get the full tax-free return. But the scheme can best be funded by a deed of covenant, costing a parent only £70 to provide an annual gift of £100.

Students have to pay the £1 membership fee to join the friendly society, but as an introductory offer Towry Law will pay the first month's £8.65 subscription. As an alternative, students are offered 10 per cent off the first year's premium.

Bonus year

Clerical Medical is celebrating high returns from the investment markets this year by giving holders of its with-profits policy that becomes a claim on death or maturity in 1985 a bonus at the rate of £4.90 per cent per annum. It is also giving a special bonus of 10 per cent of bonuses previously declared up to the end of this year.

But the company also states that the bonuses are being given in anticipation of the next budget – presumably more evidence that the insurance industry believes the Chancellor will introduce some form of non-retrospective tax on pensions.

Flexible policy

National Mutual Life Association of Australasia has launched a new unit-linked policy, Flexiplan, allowing the policyholder to adjust the degree of saving and protection in his policy.

The plan marks the company's entry into the unit-linked market, but is also, according to the general manager, Dr John Leaper, "the first stage in an ambitious programme of expansion. He said: "This extremely versatile policy is just the first of what we plan to be a competitive and comprehensive range of unit-linked products."

The plan is linked to six funds: fixed interest, UK equities, property, international, managed and guaranteed deposit. The policy includes most of the usual unit-linked whole of life features, including the waiving of premium in the event of disability and double the sum assured payable in the event of accidental death. The plan can also be written on a joint life basis if required.

Call for ombudsman

Where do you complain if you are unhappy with the way you have been treated by your pension fund? The answer is – at the moment – nowhere. The Consumers' Association is not at all happy with the situation and is recommending the setting up of a pensions ombudsman.

The ombudsman would act as arbiter in pension disputes and would operate like the highly successful Insurance Ombudsman who has powers to make his judgement binding on the insurance company, while leaving the individual free to go to court if he or she is not satisfied with his decision.

But why stop there – what about a banking ombudsman?

MOTORING

EEC blow for British car buyers on the Continent

The EEC Commission appears to have dealt a severe blow to the practice of hard-pressed British motorists buying their cars on the Continent, where prices are generally far cheaper than in this country.

The most popular foreign market has been Belgium. It is not only close and easy to reach; because of price controls its cars are about £2,000 cheaper than in Britain. But in the attempt to make the chaotic system of car-pricing in Europe fairer, the commission looks set to force Belgian prices up for outsiders.

The reasons are complex. The commission began by trying to eliminate the wide car price differentials in Europe. Having then decided that this was not possible, it settled for a system of limiting the differential to certain maximum percentages.

The new decision says that car prices may not vary from country to country by more than 12 per cent during any one year, and not more than 18 per cent at any one time. If they vary by more than this, and people complain, the commission will investigate.

But the rules exclude certain countries where prices are artificially distorted by tax or price controls – and these are the countries where cars are the cheapest. This includes Denmark and Greece where tax on car sales is very high, and Belgium and Luxembourg where prices are controlled.

The trouble is that the rules appear to exclude foreigners to these countries from buying at the prevailing pretax or controlled prices any longer. They will almost certainly have to pay the lowest price available in the other EEC countries for an identical car. So if a car is £1,500 cheaper in Belgium than Britain, but its lowest price in other EEC countries – say, West Germany, – is only £1,000 less, the British buyer in Belgium will have to pay the higher West German price.

That, at any rate, is one implication of the EEC decision. But the exact text of the rules has not yet been published so no one is sure what the exact wording will be or whether Belgium specifically will be included or excluded. And even when the text is made known, much will depend on how the commission implements the rules.

Once they have been imposed, probably on July 1 1985, the Consumers Association believes it will be a matter of going over to the Continent and seeing what happens. "It looks like being a matter of test cases to clarify the situation," said Miss Penny Duckham of the association.

"If the rules are as bad as we fear we will be kicking up a fuss about them", she added. So will the Government, since it was Britain among others which was urging the commission to take some action on car prices.

A further effect of the new rules is likely to be that, in the countries excluded, manufacturers would not be obliged to sell all versions – right-hand as well as left-hand drive models – of their cars. But in other EEC countries they will have to end the currently common practice of making it virtually impossible for British buyers to obtain right-hand drive cars.

But before rushing over to the Continent to buy a cheap car before the new rules apply, British buyers should look carefully at the discounts available here. Over the last year these have been growing larger.

Richard Thomson

NEW CAR PRICES IN EUROPEAN CURRENCY UNITS (July 1984)

	Belgium	W Germany	France	UK
BMW 320i	9,632	10,494	11,015	12,417*
Fiat Panda 45	3,361	3,864	3,793	4,186*
Ford Escort XR3i	7,203	8,123	8,219	9,167*
Peugeot 305 GT	6,590	7,057	7,542	8,644*
Renault 5 GTL	4,638	5,017	5,083	6,113*
Volkswagen Golf GTI	7,944	8,725	8,750	10,641*

* 1 ECU 60p.
Source: BEUC.

MOVING JOBS

Executives' wives revolt

The upwardly mobile executive in many industries must have a family equally willing to move around the country at the dictates of his or her career.

A survey of executive removals by Pickfords Removals shows, however, that managers are becoming less willing to move because of their spouse's career.

"We are recruiting better-qualified managers – and they have better-qualified wives", said a personnel manager interviewed for the survey of 40 companies.

Children's education also puts a brake on mobility with managers being particularly tied down at O and A level examination stages. Parents are unwilling to move from an area with a high standard of education to one with a reputation for poor schools. One couple in the survey decided to send their children away to a private school to escape this problem.

Companies may pick up all the bills associated with moving, but the survey concludes that no matter how attractive the financial incentives, the decision to move depends on a series of personal trade offs between ambition and family life including the spouse's career, children's education and the quality of life in the different locations.

Most companies pay a disturbance allowance, usually between 10 per cent and 15 per cent of salary. But some pay a fixed amount of between £600 and £1,500. This is supposed to cover the cost of fitting out the new house. Sometimes special extras, such as the cost of school uniforms, are added for families with children.

Interest-free bridging finance is generally offered, either directly from the company or employees are left to arrange a loan from the company through their banks with interest charges reimbursed by the company.

Sale of the house left behind can be a headache. Companies which bear the cost of the bridging finance said that after about six months they would pressure the executive to lower the asking price and might ask for a surveyor's opinion. Specialist relocation agencies were sometimes employed to sell the house left behind.

None of the companies surveyed adopted the Civil Service practice of giving an interest-free loan based on a percentage of salary when there is a gap between the funds from the house sale, plus a maximum mortgage, and the price of an equivalent new house.

One retail chain offers executives the use of agents to handle the legal side of buying and selling the houses, find the best mortgage available, and oversee the removal, any storage and insurance.

When executives are moved to the South East there is usually an allowance for the higher cost of housing. A recent survey by the Building Societies Association showed that the average price of a house in the South East is 47 per cent higher than in the West Midlands and 55 per cent higher than in the North West.

The usual method of spanning the gap is a short-term salary hike which is phased out over three or four years or an irredeemable loan only repayable if the executive leaves the company within three years.

The survey avoided average figures for moving cost because each case is different and personnel managers often dealt with employees on a "what-seemed-fair" basis rather than by a strict code of rules. Companies with generous allowances for disturbance often have tightly drawn rules on bridging finance.

Genuine legal and removal costs are tax free; only payments which appear to go beyond the real cost of moving would be questioned by the taxman.

Vivien Goldsmith

Car makers gear up with energy-saving models

Carbuyers, by opting for one of the energy-saving models now being specifically marketed by Austin-Rover, BMW, Volkswagen and more notably Fiat, can gain considerable savings on fuel and often insurance costs. The company car driver who pays for his own petrol for private use can also benefit.

To put the energy-saving concept to the test I recently used two Fiat Regatas, the standard 1300cc and the 1300cc ES model. The ES model incorporates just about every energy-saving feature now being added to cars. It has aerodynamic aids on the front windows and boot, flush-fitting wheel trims, a five-speed gearbox, electronic engine aids to make sure the engine is always in perfect tune, an electronic gauge giving a constant read-out of consumption and a gear-change indicator telling the driver when it is best to change into higher gear. However, the main feature is the Fiat's Citymatic system which, when switched on, turns the engine off as the car comes to a halt at traffic lights or in heavy traffic.

The engine springs to life as soon as the clutch pedal is touched to re-engage first gear. An upgraded starter-motor and battery cope with the increased load and the electronic engine system means that a first-time start is never in doubt.

The two cars were used for the same period and for the same journeys, involving a warm-up run through suburban Hertfordshire, a 15-mile 70mph run down the M1 and then a crawl through rush-hour traffic via the North Circular to the City. The process was reversed each evening with the warming-up period coming in heavy traffic.

Luckily the weather during the two-week test period meant that both cars were subjected to dry, crisp and foggy, damp days and consumption was checked by brimming the tanks from the same pump; not the most scientific method but the one used by the private motorist anxious to keep a close watch on petrol consumption.

The results were that the standard model achieved an average of 32.9 mpg, commendable for a comfortable four-door car with a large boot, and a lively performance from the 1300cc engine. The ES model achieved 41.1 mpg with no obvious perfomance penalty. If anything, the ES car, with its electronic engine aids, was smoother and, even though higher-geared, more flexible.

With petrol averaging 190p a gallon the saving over 12,000 miles in a year amounts to 75 gallons at a total cost of £142.50.

The ES model costs £490 more than the standard model, but a round-up of several London dealers made it clear that there should be no trouble in narrowing that gap by negotiation. With a six-year warranty on the bodywork the car would seem an ideal buy for the family motorist and if kept until the end of the warranty period the additional outlay could be recouped two-fold, and that is in the highly unlikely event of petrol price remaining stable.

David Young

FAMILY MONEY MARKET

Banks
Current account – no interest paid. Deposit accounts – seven days notice required for withdrawals. Barclays 6.5 per cent, Lloyds and NatWest 6.25 per cent, Midland 6 per cent. National Girobank 7 per cent. "Lloyds extra interest 9.5 per cent. Nat West 8.25 per cent. Fixed term deposits £10,000-£24,999, 1 month 9 per cent, 3 months 9 per cent, 6 months 8.875 per cent. Rates quoted by National Westminster. Other banks may differ.

MONEY FUNDS

Fund	Flat	APR	Telephone
Aitken Hume monthly inc.	9.25	9.65	01 638 6070
B of Scotland	9.25	9.65	01 628 8060
Britannia call	9.0	9.38	01 588 2777
Oppenheimer Money Management Account	8.625	8.908	01 236 9362
S & P call	9.00	9.4	0708 66966
Schroder Wagg	8.85	9.21	0705 827733
" over £10,000	9.13	9.48	0705 827733
Tullet & Riley call	9.11	9.33	01 236 0952
T & R 7 day	9.46	9.89	01 236 0952
Tyndall 7 day	9.25	9.57	0272 732241
Tyndall call	9.14	9.48	0272 732241
UDT 7 day	8.75	9.04	01 626 4881
Western Trust 1 month	9.25	9.65	0752 261161
Henderson Money Market Cheque Account	9.25	9.65	01 638 5757
M & G Hica	9.3	9.74	01 626 5488
HFC Trust 7 day	9.5	9.72	01 236 8391

National Savings Bank
Ordinary accounts – interest 6 per cent on £500 minimum on deposit for whole of 1984, otherwise 3 per cent. Investment Account – 11¼ per cent interest paid without deduction of tax, months notice of withdrawal, maximum investment £50,000.

National Savings Income Bond
Min. investment £2,000 – max. £50,000. Interest – 12.75 per cent variable at six weeks notice reducing to 12 per cent from 2nd January – paid monthly without deduction of tax. Repayment at 3 months notice. Penalties in first year.

National Savings 2nd index-linked certificates
Maximum investment £10,000, excluding holdings of other issues. Return tax-free and linked to changes in the retail price index Supplement of 0.25 per cent per month up to October 1985 paid to new investors; existing holders receive a 3.0 per cent supplement between October 1984 and October 1985 4 per cent bonus if held full five years to maturity. Further 4 per cent after 10 years. Retirement Issue Certificates purchased in December 1979, £162 including bonus and supplement.

National Savings Certificates
29th issue. Return totally free of income and capital gains tax, equivalent to an annual interest rate over the five-year term of 8 per cent, maximum investment £5,000.

National Savings Yearly Plan
A one year regular savings plan converting into four-year savings certificates. Minimum £20, Maximum £100 a month. Return over five years 9.06 per cent – tax free.

Guaranteed Income Bonds
Return paid net of basic rate tax, higher rate taxpayers may have a further liability on maturity.
1 year Capital Life 7.25 per cent 2 years General Portfolio 8.25 per cent 3 years New Direction Fanance 8.3 per cent 4 years General Portfolio 9.1 per cent 5 years New Direction Finance 8.75 per cent

Local authority town hall bonds
Fixed term, fixed rate investments, interest quoted gross (basic rate tax deducted at source reclaimable by non-taxpayers). 1 yr Neath 10 per cent. 2 yrs Kent 10¼ per cent. 3 yrs Neath 10½ per cent. 4-5 Bournemouth 10¾ per cent. 6-7 yrs Edinburgh 11 per cent. 8-10 yrs Northampton 11 per cent.
Further details available from Chartered Institute of Public, Finance & Accountancy, Loans Bureau (638 6361 between 10am and 2.30pm) see also on Prestel no 24808.

Building societies
Ordinary share accounts – 6.75 per cent. Extra interest accounts usually pay 1 per cent over the ordinary share rate. Regular savings schemes – 1.25 per cent over BSA advised ordinary share rate. Rates quoted above are those most commonly offered. Individual building societies may quote different rates. Interest on all accounts paid net of basic rate tax. Not reclaimable by non-taxpayers.

Foreign currency deposits
Rates quoted by Rothschild's Old Court Intl. Reserves 0481 26741. Seven days notice is required for withdrawal and no charge is made for switching currencies.

Sterling	8.53 per cent
US dollar	7.96 per cent
Yen	5.31 per cent
D Mark	4.70 per cent
French Franc	9.62 per cent
Swiss Franc	3.92 per cent

November RPI: 341.9.



FOOTBALL: RISE AND FALL OF TWO MANAGERS

Exchange market costly for Gould

By Stuart Jones

Bobby Gould yesterday became the eleventh managerial casualty of the season when he was dismissed by Coventry City. Don Mackay, formerly in charge of Dundee and an insurance salesman before being appointed as his assistant only in October, is to take over until the end of the season.

Gould, aged 39, left Bristol Rovers to become Dave Sexton's successor 18 months ago. He immediately and successfully transformed the side and, after completing an astonishing 4-0 victory over Liverpool last December, Coventry lay fourth in the first division. But their fall was to be even more dramatic than their rise.

Lack of consistency was the problem, not so much of results (although they usually lost) as of selection. Gould, who played for nine clubs in his 16-year career, proved to be even more active in the transfer market. He was involved in no fewer than 45 deals.

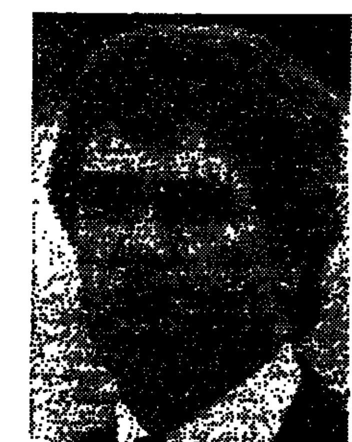
When he arrived most of the senior players were nearing the end of their contracts and Gould, once the assistant manager at Aldershot, went down into the lower divisions to look for promising and inexpensive material. But such was the rate of movement in and out of Highfield Road that the main gates became swing doors.

Players were exchanged with bewildering speed and, not surprisingly, the team remained unsettled. Even though he recently bought the more recognized if ageing talents of Regis and Barnes, the team's decline remained steady and John Poynton, Coventry's chairman, decided to end Gould's three-year contract.

Coventry finished nineteenth last season, two points above the safety line, and are now 21st, two points below it. As the adjacent table shows, they have won only nine of their 42 League games in 1984, during which their defensive record has been by far the worst in the division.

Nor are they likely to end the year on an optimistic note. West Ham United, their visitors today, drew away at Tottenham Hotspur, the leaders, on Boxing Day and are seeking their third successive win at Highfield Road. Before departing, Gould helped Mackay to select a side showing two changes from that which lost at Luton.

Mackay, aged 44, played more than 300 games in goal for Dundee United and acted as a coach at Southend United and Bristol City before gaining managerial experience in Denmark. After the Dundee board sold a player against his wishes, he resigned – on the same day that Coventry beat Liverpool.



Gould: problems unsolved

Turn of the year could put Everton's prospects under a stern challenge

By Stuart Jones, Football Correspondent

Everton, who have gained more points than any other club in the history of the championship, are indisputably the first division team of the year as well. Whatever the outcome at Portman Road this afternoon, they will add that unofficial title to the Milk Cup loser's and FA Cup winner's medals.

It has been a remarkable revival. Last Christmas Howard Kendall was as aware as anyone that he was in severe danger of suffering the same fate that yesterday befell Bobby Gould, whose Coventry City side is likely to finish at the bottom of the table, which excludes those who were promoted and relegated.

After completing 42 League fixtures, coincidentally the length of a full programme, Everton have built an unbridgeable gap of five points over Southampton, who were second behind Liverpool in last season' championship. In so doing, they have gained more victories, scored more goals and conceded fewer defeats than any of their 19 rivals.

As their reserve strength begins to be stretched, they can scarcely hope to match those feats in 1985. Heath is already out of consideration, Gray his understudy, is injured as well and Curran comes in for only his second full appearance of the season. It may be time for Ipswich Townb to end their run of seven defeats in eight games.

Logic suggests that it is Tottenham Hotspur who will be standing on the peak at the dawn of a new year. With Ardiles and Allen waiting increasingly impatiently in the wings, Hoddle returns to colour their imagination and widen their vision at White Hart Lane today.

Although their visitors, Sunderland, won a Mild Cup replay there some three weeks ago, they have triumphed in only one other away game and Len Ashurst has more question marks on his team sheet than a Christmas quiz. Six of his squad are doubtful and he expects at least four of them to be ruled out.

So heavy is the fixture congestion (Brian Clough has suggested that all managers should spread the burden on the players) that only five clubs were able to announce their line-ups yesterday. They included Liverpool, who have dropped Molby and Johnston from the side that lost at home to Leicester City on Boxing Day for the visit of Luton Town.

Dalglish is recalled and MacDonald, bought for £400,000 from Leicester six weeks ago, makes his debut in midfield. With Lawrenson still absent through injury, Liverpool's defence, which yielded eight fewer goals than any other first division club in 1984, remains unaltered. Neal, their captain, will be starting his 800th game.

Manchester United's rearguard has in contrast cracked so alarmingly recently that Ron Atkinson has decided to bring back McGrath. Duxbury, so uncomfortable in his central role, is expected to be spared the ordeal of marking either Dixon, the League's leading scorer, Davies, who claimed three goals at Everton, or Speedie at Chelsea.

Don Howe has a similar problem with Arsenal's back four. After six successive away defeates, he has taken five central defenders, including Whyte, who has been on lengthy loan at Crystal Palace, and only one full back (Sansom is still unavailable) to St James Park. Newcastle United recall Beardsley and McCreery.

West Bromwich Albion, who have climbed up into fifth place after winning seven out of their last nine games, could have trouble in the heart of their defence as well. Both Bennett and Robertson missed training yesterday and are considered doubtful for the home game against Norwich City.

First division Jan-Dec 1984

Current position		P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
2	Everton	42	22	12	8	78	47	78
6	Southampton	42	20	13	9	69	45	73
3	Manchester United	42	19	14	9	74	44	71
7	Nottingham Forest	42	21	8	13	71	49	71
1	Tottenham Hotspur	42	21	8	13	74	52	71
4	Arsenal	42	20	10	12	76	56	70
10	Liverpool	42	17	16	9	64	37	67
18	Queen's Park Rgers	42	16	13	13	71	53	61
5	West Bromwich	42	17	10	15	61	59	61
15	Watford	42	16	12	14	75	79	60
12	Leicester City	42	16	10	16	75	68	58
11	Norwich City	42	12	15	15	51	52	51
17	Aston Villa	42	13	11	18	52	65	50
13	West Ham United	42	12	13	17	52	66	49
14	Sunderland	42	12	12	18	46	56	48
22	Stoke City	42	12	9	21	41	74	45
20	Ipswich Town	42	11	10	21	43	61	43
19	Luton Town	42	8	13	21	43	76	37
21	Coventry City	42	9	8	25	48	93	35

Leading lights face power failure

By Hugh Taylor

Aberdeen and Celtic may still be regarded as the only two clubs who have a real hope of winning the premier division championship, but they have suddenly lost their aura of invincibility. Today, both will have to play with more authority than they did last week if their grip on the leading positions is not to be further loosened, for they face formidable opposition.

Aberdeen visit Paisley to play a St Mirren team which, although seldom consistent, can attack crisply when on form. Also Alex Miller, St Mirren's manager, believes his forwards can exploit the absence from the visitors' defence of that outstanding centre back McLeish, who is injured.

Black, however, will be fit to lead the Aberdeen forward line, which should ensure a more sparkling attack and help the league leaders improve on recent form which has brought them only one point in the last two games. As St Mirren have failed to score against Aberdeen in the two matches between the clubs this season, it is difficult to envisage the Scottish champions going three matches without a win.

Celtic will have a more difficult task at Parkhead. They meet Dundee United, whose recent form, capped by their defeat of Aberdeen last week, has made them the outstanding team in Scotland. Celtic, who will have to find more drive than they displayed against Rangers if they are to take advantage of any further slips by Aberdeen, will be heartened by the return to fitness of McGrain, their inspiring captain, who was injured in the match with Rangers. If the teams are at their best, this should be one of the most entertaining games of the season.

Rangers are on dangerous ground at Boghead, where Dumbarton have surprised their critics with some vigourous displays, thus building up their hopes of surviving in the premier division. However, injection of youth into the Rangers side has brought a more refreshing approach

Heart of Midlothian will field a new signing, Watson from Leeds United, against Morton at Tynecastle. Although the luckless Greenock club won 2-1 on their last visit to Edinburgh, they are unlikely to repeat that success, so far have they fallen from grace in recent weeks. And Hibernian, who are also struggling, do not appear to have much hope of beating Dundee. Although they have won their last six league games at Dens Park, their opponents are at last achieving the type of solid football demanded by Archie Knox, their manager.

Criticism of players' demands

An attack on the wage demands of professional footballers was made by the Preston North End managing director, Barney Campbell, yesterday. Speaking at the club's annual general meeting, he said that the directors had endeavoured to find cash with which to strengthen the team, but enquiries about a goalkeeper had brought about demands for "£15,000 signing-on fee, a three-year contract, £320 a week and a £2,000-a-year loyalty bonus" by the player concerned.

"Unfortunately, nowadays it is not the transfer fee, it's what the players themselves want", Alan Kelly, Preston's manager, added.

Preston, whose gates have fallen below the 4,000 break-even point, had a trading loss of £105, 944, converted into a £16,000 profit only by the surrender of the freehold assets of the ground to the local council.

The council now wants more community use of the stadium, so the club plans to install an artificial turf pitch, for which initial League permission has been granted to try to meet the council's demands.

Stephens to pay

Archie Stephens, the Bristol Rovers forward, who was sent off in the 3-0 victory at Brentford on Boxing Day, will be heavily fined by the club. The manager, David Williams, says: "With such a small squad we cannot tolerate suspensions which could jeopardize our promotion bid."

Stephens will be available for the third round FA Cup game with Ipswich Town next Saturday before missing two league games.

Struel the latest director to leave Swansea

Malcolm Struel has resigned as the chief executive and director of Swansea City. Struel, the fifth director to leave the club in seven months, stressed that his departure had nothing to do with recent boardroom rows or the arrival of the new manager, John Bond, whom he supported wholeheartedly.

"It is apparent that he has very quickly identified certain weaknesses which should have been tackled during the close season", Struel said.

Struel, who was chairman for 10 years, was responsible for bringing John Toshack to the club as manager and helping to steer them from the fourth division to the top of the first in a record four seasons.

He said: "I have battled unceasingly to come to terms with the very real difficulties of providing success for a club such as ours. "I have come to feel that a change of environment is now overdue."

He resigned the chairmanship 15 months ago, just before the departure of Toshack. At the same time the club revealed debts of £1.5 million.

Halifax game off

Today's fourth division match between Halifax Town and Stockport County has been postponed because 10 of Halifax's 16 professionals are suffering from a virus infection.

Digweed helps Charlton in hour of need

Charlton Athletic have signed Perry Digweed, the Brighton goalkeeper, on a month's loan. With one goalkeeper, Tony Lange, likely to be out for the rest of the season because of a broken right ankle, Charlton needed cover for Nicky Johns, who plays against Grimsby at the Valley today. Digweed was the first choice of the Brighton manager, Chris Cattlin, at the start of the season, but the Londoner, aged 25, who was signed for £150,000 from Fulham in 1981, broke bones in both feet and his place has been held since then by Moseley.

If Charlton want to use Digweed against Brighton in the match at the Valley on New Year's Day, they must obtain permission.

Oxford United are poised to sign Brian McDermott, the 23-year-old Arsenal midfield player. A fee of £30,000 has been agreed for the former England youth international and the Oxford manager, Jim Smith, hopes to complete the agreement in time for McDermott to be available for their FA cup match at Shrewsbury on January 5.

McDermott has made 60 league appearances for Arsenal but has not played in their first team this season.

Digweed: reserve goalkeeper

● Four thousand pensioners and unemployed people will be admitted free to the match between Aston Villa and West Bromwich Albion on New Year's Day. Villa will provide 2,000 seats, while another 2,000 seats will be paid for by West Midlands County Council.

● Trevor Brooking, the former England and West Ham forward, who retired from League football at the end of last season, has signed for the Isthmian League club, Rainham, who are managed by his brother, Tony.

Sir Stanley to celebrate 70 as president

Sir Stanley Matthews has agreed to become president of the Isthmian League side, Walton and Hersham. Sir Stanley, who celebrates his seventieth birthday on February 1, is now coaching in Toronto, but will return to this country on February 6 to attend a dinner in Stoke in his honour.

Three days later, he is the guest of honour at Walton and Hersham's home first division league match against Clapton. On February 11 a birthday ball will be held for him as part of Stoke's 75th jubilee.

Sir Stanley won 54 England caps with Stoke and Blackpool and gained an FA Cup winners medal with Blackpool in 1953 – in a game known as "the Matthews final".

Charlie Cooke, the former Scottish international, has also agreed to become a vice-president of Walton and Hersham.

BASKETBALL

Three to one against: Saiers (white vest), of Solent, is outnumbered as MIM Edinburgh pile on the pressure (Photograph Ian Stewart)

Solent's tale of unending gloom

By Nicholas Harling

Not for a long time can Sperrings Solent Stars have failed to score 60 points in a game or have been involved in a match between first-round losers. That, however, is the indignity awaiting them this afternoon after their 67-54 defeat by MIM Edinburgh in the Philips World Invitation Club Championships at Crystal Palace yesterday.

As if matters were not already bad enough for the 1982 finalists, who are in the hands of the receiver, two more of their players were unavailable for the game between the champions of England and Scotland. Callandrillo and Johnson are refusing to play in protest at the club's financial crisis and now, following hard on the surprise announcement from Watson that he has retired for the season, came the injury, a broken toe, that prevented Lewis from playing.

In the circumstances it was hardly surprising either that Solent lost or that their coach, Jim Kelly, wore a look of resignation as he spelt out the grim facts about his club, who could field only seven players, one an untried junior. "Those that are playing are just hanging in there and doing the best they can and I take my hat off to them", Kelly said.

Kelly, who insists that he has no intention of adding to Solent's woes by leaving – although he, too, is not being paid – was pleased with his side's defensive play, less so with their shooting as countless efforts from Saiers and Robinson seemed to bounce off the rims.

Edinburgh, with Byrd prompting attacks in which Foggon, Way and Archibald were, as usual, dominant tookcontrol midway through the first half, after which they were never headed. With Robinson and Skeoch in foul trouble for Solent, Edinburgh extended their four-point interval lead, although their coach, Joel Furnari, agreed that they had to scuffle todo so.

The first British club to succeed were Cottrills Manchester Giants, who withstood a late rally from Solna to go through to a match with the former champions, Athletes In Action, today. The big difference was that whereas Manchester sank all their 19 free throws, the Swedish champions missed a potential 16 points from the line. Neither were Solna helped by the fact that Yitergren, their Swedish international, sat out the match with his leg in plaster.

FIRST ROUND: Maccabi Tel Aviv 131, Bratislava 87; Athletes In Action 109, Ghents 101; Manchester 79, Solna 76; Solent 54, Edinburgh 67.

● Solent Stars' plight has led to the formation of Solent Stars '85 Ltd, a company whose board of directors includes TJ Robinson, one of the Solent players. They aim to raise £40,000 to secure the club's future.

Policeman promoted

Alec Kirby, a 46-year-old police dog handler at Halesowen, has taken over as the new secretary of the Midland Council of the British Boxing Board of Control. He replaces Arthur Musson, who has retired after holding the position for more than 30 years.

WOMEN'S HOCKEY

Cambridgeshire defeat puts Suffolk at top

By Joyce Whitehead

Cambridgeshire, who started at the top of the table, lost for the first time – 1-3 to Suffold – on the first day of the East women's tournament at Shotley Gate, near Ipswich, yesterday. This put Suffolk, the holders, on top for the first time this season. They now share first place with Norfold, who beat Hetfordshire 1-0.

Essex rather limped to a 1-1 draw with Huntingdonshire and Kent beat Lincolnshire 2-0.

At Lytham St Anne's, Lancashire still lead the North table, but were held to a 0-0 draw by Lancashire Central League, who defended hard. Yorkshire improved, beating Durham 1-0 to tie for second place with Cheshire, who managed only a 0-0 draw with Sheffield League. Sheffield had a goal disallowed. Val Hallam in the Sheffield goal played particularly well.

There were two high scores at Bedford. Staffordshire romped home 10-0 against Worcestershire. Jane Swinnerton scored five goals, Kay Eames three, atwo of which were from penalty strokes, and Jo Campbell and Pat Neill one each. Nottinghamshire, 0-0 at half-time, rattled in six goals without reply against Northamptonshire, Christ Patterson scoring two, Jeanette Wells three and Jacki Aspinall one.

At Cheltenham, Avon are still at the top. They beat Wiltshire 3-0. Sue Slocombe scored twice for Somerset, the holders, who beat Herefordshire 2-0.

Devon scored in the second minute against Gloucestershire and held the lead at half-time. From two breaks in the second half Vanessa Francis scored twice for Gloucestershire, only for Devon to equalize in the last minute after they had had 90 per cent of the play.

RESULTS: East: Cambridgeshire 1, Suffolk 3; Essex 1, Huntingdonshire 1; Norfolk 1, Hertfordshire 0; Kent 2, Lincolnshire 0. North: Yorkshire 1, Durham 0; Northumberland 2, Cumberland 0; Westmorland 1, Manchester League 1; Lancashire 0, Lancashire Central League 0; Sheffield League 0, Cheshire 0. Midlands: Shropshire 1, Bedfordshire 1; Warwickshire 3, Derbyshire 0; Nottinghamshire 6, Northamptonshire 0; Staffordshire 10, Worcestershire 0; Leicestershire 5, Bedford College 0. West: Somerset 2, Herefordshire 0; Avon 3, Wiltshire 0; Devon 2, Gloucestershire 2; Dorset 2, Cornwall 1.

RUGBY UNION

Scottish changes

After two heavy defeats by New Zealand and France, the Scottish Schools selectors have made changed for the match against Wales at Kelso next Saturday. Robertson and Renwick return at scrum half and No 8 respectively, Walker moves from centre to stand-off, and O'Neill comes in at centre his first cap.

TEAM: M Wright (Gala Academy); J D Jarrold (Fettes), S Swann (Glenalmond), D R O'Neill (St Aloysius College), J F Hohnson (Edinburgh Academy); M C Walker (Edinburgh Academy), M S Roberton (Dunblane HS); S A Baird (Goenalmond), B J P Huntley (Watson's), A J Nicol (Kelso HS), A J Brogan (Kelvinside Academy), D Millar (Merchiston), C Malone (Oban HS), B L Renwick (Hawick HS), J Robertson (Dollar Academy).

TENNIS

Injury keeps Gomez out of Masters event

New York (Reuter) – Andres Gomez, of Ecuador, has withdrawn from next month's Volvo Masters' Tournament because of a shoulder injury. He will be out of action for up to six weeks.

He will be replaced by an American, Aaron Krickstein, at 17 the youngest player to compete in the Masters. Krickstein, thirteenth in the grand prix standings, plays Johan Kriek in the opening round on January 8.

● Gabriela Sabatini, of Argentina, and Mark Kratzman, of Australia, have been named top junior players of the year by the American periodical, *Tennis Magazine*.

In 1984 Miss Sabatini, who is 14, won the French, Italian, Monte Carlo and Orange Bowl titles. Kratzman, 18, was junior champion at the Wimbledon, United States and Australian championships. Kratzman failed to achieve the grand slam when he was beaten in the French final by Kent Carlsson, of Sweden.

Tokyo foes

Tokoyo (Reuter) – John McEnroe of the United States, Ivan Lendl of Czechoslavakia, will compete in a $250,000 (£200,000) exhibition tournament in Tokyo next April, the sponsors said yesterday. The winner will receive $110,000 (£90,000).

MOTOR RALLYING

Monaco event will go on after all

Monte Carlo (AP) – The on-again, off-again Monte Carlo Rally became on-again yesterday with the announcement by Monaco Automobile Club that the fifty-third edition of the event had been revived and would begin on January 26.

Twenty-four hours earlier, the Monaco club issued a statement saying they were cancelling the event because they were "unable to fulfil their natural role as organizers freely and efficiently" as the result of a conflict with the French Motor Sports Federation (FFSA).

The French had demanded a fee of 1 million francs (£105,000) to cover the cost of running the parts of the rally that involve French territory. This demand came after Monaco became involved in arguments over television rights for their other famous event, the Monaco Grand Prix, with the International Motor Sport Federation (FISA) and the International Automobile Federation (FIA). Jean-Marie Balestre of France, heads all three organizations.

Yesterday France's Minister of Youth and Sports, Alain Calmat, issued an appeal to the Monaco club and the French federation to reason together. Earlier in the day the Monaco club issued a statement saying the appeal came too late and that it should be addressed to the French federation, "who carry the immense responsibility for the present situation."

The way was opened for the 1985 rally to go ahead when today's FFSA meeting decided that the rally would be organized by the Monaco club under the same conditions as in 1984. All sports associations are to be instructed to give the same support as in the past.

The French will do the necessary as far as the FIA are concerned to ensure that whatever the decision of the international appeals tribunal on January 11 on future control of rally the ruling will not be applicable to the 1985 event.

The closure date for entries has been put back and the rally can be included in the 1985 world drivers' and constructors' championship. FFSA said the decision came as a proposal by Balestre to put an end to all controversy and in the interest of motor sport.

One of the world's most famous motor sport events, the rally was first held in 1911.

ATHLETICS

Miss Budd back on road again

Zurich (Reuter) – Zola Budd returns to competitive athletics in an 8km road race here on Sunday determined to resume her career after her last race, the Olympic 3,000 metres final in August, ended in recriminations.

Granted British citizenship in record time last April, Miss Budd was able to evade the international sporting boycott of South Africa and compete in Los Angeles. But her hopes were shattered when she collided with Mary Decker, the favourite, in the final of the 3,000 metres. The American fell heavily while Miss Budd finished seventh, running home to boos from the partisan crowd.

Miss Budd, who rose to prominence when she set an unofficial world best time for 5,000 metres in South Africa last January, returned to South Africa after the Olympics to think about her future. For a while it seemed she would retire from the sport, but then accepted an invitation to run in Zurich.

Jannie Momberg, Miss Budd's adviser, said in Johannesburg yesterday that he saw Sunday's race as a way of easing her back into competition. "It's our hope to get her to run internationally again", he said. "After that we will plan with her the rest of 1985."

● PARIS: Jarmila Kratochvilova, the world champion and world record holder for the women's 400m and 800m, is included in Czechoslovakia's team for th first world indoor athletics championships here on January 18 and 19 (AFP reports).

WOMEN: 200m: J Kratochvilova, R Cernochova. MEN: 3000m I Uvizl. HIGH JUMP: J Zvara. LONG JUMP: J Leitner TRIPLE JUMP: J Cado. POLE VAULT: F Jansa, Z Lubensky SHOT PUTT: R Machura.



Miss Budd: returning to action

Winner of four Olympic golds collects two more honours

Carl Lewis in poll position

Carl Lewis, the winner of four gold medals at the Los Angeles Olympic Games, has received two further honours. He has been named Champion of World Champions in a poll organized by the French newspaper *L'Equipe*, and awarded the "Oscar of Sports" prize as best athlete of 1984.

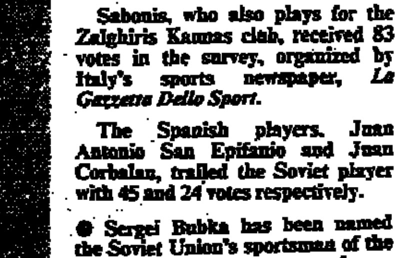
Lewis led *L'Equipe's* list with 94 points after the voting, by sports specialists from newspapers around the world. Second, 62 points behind, came Michel Platini, the captain of the French football team, and joint third were Sergei Bubka, the Soviet Union world record holder in the pole vault, John McEnroe, and Niki Lauda, the Formula One world champion. Jayne Torvill and Christopher Dean were seventh.

The "Oscar of Sports" is an annual prize based on votes by 70 Italian and foreign sports writers, and sponsored by the municipality of San Remo.

Lewis, who received votes from all jury members, again edged Platini into second place, with Lauda coming third.



Lewis: ahead in the votes



Also mentioned among the best 10 athletes of the year were McEnroe and Martina Navratilova, who was the first woman in the survey, in eighth place.

Lewis will be given a golden plaque at an official ceremony in February.

● Arvida Sabonis, the 19-year-old Soviet player, has been voted the best European basketball player for 1984 by an international jury.

Sabonis, who also plays for the Zalghiris Kaunas club, received 83 votes in the survey, organized by Italy's sports newspaper, *La Gazzetta Dello Sport*.

The Spanish players, Juan Antonio San Epifanio and Juan Corbalan, trailed the Soviet player with 45 and 24 votes respectively.

● Sergei Bubka has been named the Soviet Union's sportsman of the year in a poll of the country's top sports writers.

● China's world high jump record holder, Zhu Jianhua, the gymnast Li Ning, the women's volleyball player, Lang Ping, and the South Korean women's basketball player, Park Chan Sook, were among China's top choices for the top 10 Asian athletes of the year.

● Errol Christie has been voted the young boxer of 1984 by the Boxing Writers Club.

IN BRIEF

Carrigill's award

Paul Carrigill, from Morley, near Leeds, is the White Horse golf personality of the month for December. A panel of golf writers chose him for his successes in the West Indies, where he won the Trinidad and Tobago Open and finished second in the Jamaican Open behind Lee Elder, the former American Ryder Cup player.

MOTOR RACING: Philippe Alliot, the French driver who completed his first season in Formula One in October, has re-signed for the RAM-Hart team for the 1985 World championship.

SKIING: Marie-Luce Waldmeier, the French women's downhill champion in 1980 and 1983, has decided to retire from competitive Alpine skiing, despite her coach's wish for her to remain with the French team.

BOXING: The World Boxing Association has named Ubaldo Sacco, of Argentina, as official challenger to the light welterweight world champion, Gene Hatcher of the United States.

FOR THE RECORD

BASKETBALL

UNITED STATES: National Association: San Antonio Spurs 141, Portland Trail Blazers 120; Chicago Bulls 112, Cleveland Cavaliers 108; Kansas City Kings 98, Houston Rockets 92; Golden State Warriors 101, Seattle Supersonics 98; Boston Celtics 118, Los Angeles Clippers 103.

DAKAR: African women's championship: Zaire 111, Cameroun 86; Senegal 93, Uali 81.

CYCLING

COLOGNE: Six-day race, first night: 1, J Kristen/H Rinkin (WG) 14 pts; 2, G Frank/H Schuetz (Den/WG) 11; 3, D Thurau/D Clark (WG/Aus) 10, (1 lap behind); 4, R Pijnen/A Fritz (Neth/WG) and R Dill-Bundi/G Wiggins (Switz/Aus) 0 (1 lap behind); 6, S Tourne/R Ilegems (Bel) and Goldschagg/H Neummayer (WG) 4 (3 laps behind).

ICE HOCKEY

NORTH AMERICA: National League: New Jersey Devils 4, Toronto Maple Leafs 1; Montreal Canadiens 5, Quebec Nordiques 3; Washington Capitals 5, New York Islanders 4; Los Angeles Kings 6, Boston Bruins 6.

TENNIS

MELBOURNE: Victorian open championships, second round: M Anger (US) bt W Masur (Aus) 6-3, 6-2; C Dowdeswell (GB) bt S McCain (US) 6-3, 6-2; J Hlasek (Switz) bt D Cahill (Aus) 6-1, 6-7, 7-6; van Rensburg (SA) bt J Smith (GB) 3-6, 6-3, 6-2.

PORT WASHINGTON (New York): Rolex international junior women's championships, semi-final round: M Paz (Arg) bt P O'Reilly (US) 6-2, 6-4; N Bykova (USSR) bt V Milvidskaya (USSR) 7-5, 7-5. Boys' 18 and under singles: Third round: H Skoff (Austria) bt B Knapp (GB), 6-2, 6-2.

GOLF

CORAL GABLES (Florida): Orange Bowl junior championships, first round: Men: 71: T Bowser (US), J Tighe (US). 72: C Cortez (Chile). 73: O Eckstein (W.G). 74: S Strewer (W.G), D Hart (US), R Byrnes (US), N Franze (US), D Slooter (Neth). Women: 74: K Nilsmark (Swe). 79: C Bourtayre (FR), C Ambuorson (Swe). 80: S Maize (US), B Walker (BR). 81: S Bargoon (US), M Cimino (US), M Ferragutti (Ven), M Platt (US), D Rama (US).

VOLLEYBALL

APELDOORN (Netherlands): International tournament, first day: Women: S Korea bt Netherlands, 2-1 (15-1, 13-15, 15-9); E German bt Canada, 2-0 (15-3, 15-7); W Germany bt France, 2-0 (15-11, 15-8); Cuba bt Dynamo (Neth), 2-0 (15-4, 15-2); E Germany bt Netherlands, 2-0 (15-7, 15-12); Olympia (Belgum) bt France, 2-0 (15-8, 15-8); W Germany bt Dynamo, 2-0 (15-5, 15-7); Olympia (Bel) bt Dynamo, 2-0 (15-4, 15-5); Cuba bt W Germany, 2-0 (15-13, 15-6); S Korea bt Canada, 2-1 (15-7, 10-15, 15-2).

Men: Greece bt Dynamo (Neth), 2-1 (11-15, 15-9, 15-5); S Korea bt Netherlands, 2-1 (15-10, 11-15, 15-10); Cuba bt Sweden, 2-0 (19-16, 18-16); Asti Bistefani (It) bt W Germany, 2-1 (15-9, 3-15, 15-7); S Korea bt Greece, 2-1 (15-6, 8-15, 15-9); Sweden bt Asti, 2-1 (12-15, 15-4, 15-6); Cuba bt W Germany, 2-0 (15-11, 15-7); Netherlands bt Dynamo, 2-0 (15-10, 15-7).

CAIRO: African junior championship, third day: Egypt bt Algeria, 3-1 (15-8, 15-17, 15-4, 15-12); Tunisia bt Sudan, 3-2 (13-15, 15-6, 15-11, 13-15, 15-7).

FOOTBALL

FOOTBALL COMBINATION: Crystal Palace 1, Luton Town 2.

RUGBY UNION: NORTH FORCED TO MAKE CHANGES FOR TOUR OPENER

England cannot afford to undervalue the Romanians

By David Hands, Rugby Correspondent

The Romanians will open their three-match tour of England at Birkenhead Park today against a Northern Division bedevilled by the kind of problems that have seemed inseperable from English rugby this year. Injuries and illness have forced the divisional side into four changes from their original selection, the latest withdrawal coming as late as yesterday afternoon when Andy Simpson, the Sale hooker, left the team's hotel suffering from influenza.

Match preparation, which included a futile visit to a frozen playing surface on Thursday, has not been all it might have been in readiness for a game against opponents whose achievements over the last five years – if not the last five weeks – demand considerable respect. Romania have waited a long time for this tour, which culminates in a full international against England next Saturday, and they are keen not to waste their opportunity.

For the last 25 years they have been a force to be reckoned with at international level and their results against the four home countries since 1978 have only confirmed this. Wales and Scotland still bear the scars of defeat in Bucharest and though the Romanians received a setback in November, going down 18-3 to France at home, they have taken stock of their resources in four matches – one against Spain and three in France – before arriving in Chester this week.

After beating the Spanish, the Romanians lost to a Basque selection and the French Police before beating a Pyrenees selection 13-12 at Foix. Having subjected themselves to such a gruelling build-up, they have had the inevitable crop of bumps and bruises, including a heavily bruised knee sustained by Paraschiv, their captain and scrum half. He misses today's game, as does Radalescu, the flanker.

Several England places may depend on good games for the North today and for the South and South-West on Tuesday. Good selection demands a great over-view, not the impression provided by just one game, but since losing to Australia, England have lost the services of Melville, Barley and Mills, and have seen the form of Barnes slide downhill.

A good game today by the Cambridge University pair, Simms and Andrew, would advance their claims to a first cap. The subtle running of Simms in the centre could prove an attractive possibility if paired with a steady, supportive player such as Lozowski. Carleton, on the right wing, will also wish to indicate that he is far from a back number.

John Buckton, now with Saracens, has replaced his Yorkshire colleague, Barley, in the centre, and Smith has come in as the scrum half and captain for Melville. Paul Simpson has replaced the unavailable Johnston in the back row, while Andy Simpson's replacement is Hitchen, the Orrell hooker.



North stars: Andrew (above) and Simms (below) will advance their claims to a first England cap with a good game for the North against the Romanians today, while Carleton is recalled to the side



NORTHERN DIVISION: D Boyd (West Hartlepool); J Carleton (Orrell), K Simms (Cambridge University and Liverpool), J Buckton (Saracens), R Underwood (Leicester); R Andrew (Cambridge University and Middlesbrough), S Smith (Sale, captain); P Huntsman (Headingley), N Hitchen (Orrell), E Bell (West Hartlepool), P Moss (Orrell), J Syddall (Waterloo), S Bainbridge (Fylde), P Buckton (Liverpool), P Simpson (Bath).
ROMANIANS: G Florea; M Toader, M Marghescu, A Lungu, M Aldea; V Ion, T Coman; I Bucan, E Grigore, C Gheorghe, F Murariu, G Caragea, G Dumitru (captain) H Dumitras, L Constanin.

Lions' Roaring Nineties

SIDELINES
Gordon Allan

Is rugby in Britain dead? The obvious answer is no, but that does not dispose of the question, which many are bound to be asking after the revelations of the Australian tour.

It is a favourite question, anyway. Football has been dying and miraculously recovering for years. Every time the average attendance at League matches drops by a hundred or two the cry goes up that the game is doomed. But somehow the last day never dawns and the old fascination continues to work.

They say British rugby is dead when the Lions are skinned alive by the All Blacks or the home countries are grand-slammed by the Wallabies. But the people who say that suffer from tunnel vision. They are thinking of Auckland and twickenham and Cardiff. What do they know of rugby who only Twickenham know?

Have they never been to Old Pankhurstians' ground in the depths of Metroland – you know, the one the referees' handbook says is half a mile from the station, across the second traffic lights, then third left, first right, and down the lane past the Pig and Whistle? You cannot have Harlequins without Old Pankhurstians, and you cannot know rugby unless you know both. While Old Pankhurstians are alive and miskicking, British rugby is not dead.

In any case, when they say the game is dead, what they are really talking about are deficiencies of technique and approach. Alan Jones, the Australian coach, said British rugby had become dull, boring and negative. The set piece dominated; too much good possession was kicked away; players were as willing to take risks as they were to have teeth pulled.

According to John Reason, in a charming essay, the declie into a playing policy of what he calls "the kick, the whole kick and nothing but the kick" began 10 years ago. "Scotland's success in the 1984 international championship," he wrote, "was the greatest disaster to befall British rugby and the game as a whole since the 1974 British Lions tour of South Africa."

Scotland and Pontypool, equally successful, played in exactly the same way, he continued – "both aspired to do nothing more risky than kick the ball up in the air and run after it" – and he thought that Pontypool, being better at that type of game, would beat Scotland, particularly at Pontypool Park on a Wednesday night.

I do not know about that, but I do know, or think, that we may have to wait until the 1990s for British rugby, as represented by the Lions, to be restored to full health. Coincidence or not, since the Second World War the highs and lows have occurred in alternate decades: good Lions teams in the 1950s, mediocre teams in the 1960s, good teams in the 1970s, and in the 1980s waste and woe, with scant evidence of improvement so far – "not one world-class back to be found anywhere in the four home unions," Reason wrote, "and that after threequarters of a century when we never had anything less than an entire back division."

I am generalizing, which is dangerous, but if I happen to be right about the 1990s, it gives hope to all those with the good of British rugby at heart. For the present they will have to be content with Scotland, Pontypool and Old Pankhurstians. They could do worse.

Glasgow undeterred by poor travellers' fare

By Ian McLauchlan

Glasgow, seeking redemption after defeat in the inter-district championship last weekend, travel to London today to play the Anglo-Scots at Richmond, kicking off at 12.45 to allow them time to return the same day. The party assemble at Glasgow airport at 6.45am to board the 7.15 shuttle, which would seem to be poor preparation for such an important fixture on the Scottish calendar.

There is one change from last week with Duncan returning to the wing and Gossman moving to centre at the expense of Ker. Their opponents have also made one change which brings McKie in for Buchanan-Smith at flank forward. Both teams lost last week and despite the poor travel arrangements, the Glasgow coach Ritchie Dixon, is confident. He sees the inclusion of four of their players, Parker, Beattie, McGuinness and Gossman, in the Scotland squad as a great fillip to his team.

North and Midlands, encouraged by their win over Glasgow, are forced to make one change against South of Scotland; at centre where Carruthers comes in for Murray, who is not available. The match has been switched to Murrayfield from Dundee, where there is heavy frost on the pitch.

The visitors bring in Hogarth for the injured McGaughey. The Borderers should win and much interest will be shown in the performance of Rutherford, who will be playing only his second game since October. It is asking a lot of him in these circumstances.

High season of cheer

By David Hands

Northampton wlecome back Pearce and Cannon, their England squad members, for the game against Bath at Franklin's Gardens today, hoping to extend their run of seven home wins - a happy contrast to their fortunes earlier in the season.

Both players represented the Barbarians against Leicester on Thursday and return to a side also strengthened by the presence on the wing of Greenhalgh, who has scored 30 points in his previous two games. Palmer makes a rare appearance at full back for Bath in he absence of Martin, who is on holiday, and Rees returns to the cente.

Breenhalgh'f former club, Rosslyn Park, entertain Bedford without Edwards, the lock, who has undergone an appendix operation. In the continued absence of their injured captain, Henderson, Park are led by Kingston, the former Cambridge university captain.

Briston will go to Llanelli without Harding, their scrum half, who is having stitches removed from a gash received against Glamorgan Wanderers before Christmas. He hopes to be able to play for South and South-West against the Romanians on Tuesday, as does Barnes, who has had a chest infection.

RUGBY LEAGUE

Redfern signs for Sheffield Eagles

By David Hands

Steve Redfern, the Leicester prop forward, who was capped as a replacement by England against Ireland last season, has signed for the new Sheffield Eagles Rugby League club. He is the first England player to sign professional forms since 1978, when Mordell, the Rosslyn Park flanker, joined Oldham; he, too, won only one international cap.

Redfern"s move came as a surprise to his club, who, on Thursday evening, were celebrating their record fourth successive win over the Barbarians. John Allen, the Leicester secretary, said yesterday: "Steve played for the second team last week and hadn't been seen since. I'm very disappointed from the club's point of view, but we'll get by. We wish him all the best."

Redfern, who played as a flanker for the north Leicestershire club, Colville, before joining Leicester's youth side, began his senior career in 1976 and his impressive bulk, added to a surprising mobility, attracted representative honours quickly. He went to Canada with the England under-21 team in 1977 and subsequently won a B cap in 1979.

He has played on both sides of the scrum, though scrummaging ability will not be in such demand in Rugby League. Redfern, aged 26, said: "I feel I have done all I can in Rugby Union. This is a new challenge and I feel I can grow with this club. There are more chances to run with the ball and being able to pass the ball in the tackle comes in quite handy in this sort of game."

He joins a club which has suffered six successive defeats. Gary Hetherington, the Sheffield player-manager, said Redfern's signing was the most important the club has made and was the first step towards a promotion-winning team.

Double welcome for new face at Leeds

By Keith Macklin

Eric Grothe, the Australian international winger, flew in to Manchester airport yesterday and was pleasantly startled to be heralded with a fanfare and a special award. He thought the welcoming committee was from his new English club, Leeds, but, in fact, he was being fêted as the six millionth passenger to use th Qantas flight between Australia and Manchester.

The Leeds delegation gave a more modest but nevertheless equally warm welcome to the powerfully built wing threequarter. Grothe is likely to go straight into the Leeds team to entertain Leigh on New Year's Day.

The big name of the weekend is the first semi-final of the John Player Special Trophy – Halifax v Hull Kingston Rovers – which takes place this afternoon at Headingley, kick-off 2.45.

Hull Kingston Rovers are at full strength, and had a rest in midweek by postponing their game at Hunslet. They will start as clear favourites to win, but Halifax are brimming with confidence after their magnificent victories against St Helens and Bradford Northern.

Halifax have only one doubt. Their Australian player-coach, Chris Anderson, is suffering from grass burns to the face after the Boxing Day match with Bradford.

Rovers have had so much success in recent seasons that it seems foolish to tip against them. Yet Halifax are quite capable of pulling off yet another surprise, and their eight Australians are yearning to win an English trophy medal.

In tomorrow's truncated League programme, Hull will be seeking quick revenge for an unexpected defeat at Featherstone on Boxing Day. In the second dividion, Fulham can play dog eat dog by beating Bridgend at Crystal Palace, while Sheffield Eagles may get a rare victory at home to hapless Doncaster.

Dewsbury suffered an anticlimactic defeat at Batley following their great performance against Hull and should themselves gain revenge by beating their neighbours in the return game at Crown Flatt.

Cooke is fit again

David Cooke, who is in the England party of 32 for the international against Romania on January 5, plays his first game for Harlequins for four weeks in their away game with London Scottish

HOCKEY

Slough face challenge from Firebrands

By Sydney Friskin

Slough have a good chance of picking up their third trophy of the season when they play in the *Indoor Hockey News* tournament at the Magnet Leisure Centre, Maidenhead, tomorrow. They have already won the unofficial European club championship, organized by the Dutch at Zwolle, and the Roses tournament at Bristol.

Last year's event at Maidenhead was won by South Nottinghamshire who ended Slough's seven-year run of success. Slough's main rivals in group two at Maidenhead will be Firebrands, who had a creditable 6-5 victory over England last week at Bristol. Reading are the third team in this group, Maidenhead, Southport and Westcliff making up group one.

Firebrands will have to do without Nicholson, who is playing for England in the eight-nations indoor tournament at Bad Neuenahr, West Germany, and will therefore rely more on David Ward.

Slough, with Khehar at the top of his form and receiving all the assistance he needs from Manjilt Flora and Bal Saini, will play their crucial group match against Firebrands at about 1.30 pm and the winners will probably reach the final. Either Southport or Westcliff should qualify from the other group.

England are opposed by France, Denmark and Poland in group A of the event at Bad Neuenahr. In group B are Italy, Austria, Wales and West Germany. The danger to England could be Poland an emerging force at the indoor game.

England (from): J Hurst (St Albans), D Smith (Bromley), D Faulkner (Fareham), A Halliday (St Albans), J Shaw (Southgate), R Clarke (Tulse Hill), C Bradbury (Fareham), G Lawson (Fareham), P Nicholson (Firebrands), N Clark (South Nottinghamshire), S Port (St Albans), M Grimley (Brooklands).

YACHTING

Traditional race claims first life

From Tony Duboudin
Melbourne

The Sydney-Hobart yacht race has claimed its first life in its 40-year history, as savage seas severely cut the 156 entrants. Last night 97 yachts had withdrawn while 14 were sheltering in ports strung along the New South Wales coast, leaving only 45 boats still battling their way to Tasmania.

The missing man was Wally Russell, aged 74, who was swept overboard on Thursday night from the 12-metre sloop Yahoo II. The sloop was battling against 40-knot winds and 10-metre waves, 30 kilometres south-east of Point Perpendicular, near Jervis Bay, when Russell disappeared at about 8.30 pm.

An RAAF Hercules and a Fokker Friendship both equipped with infra red scanners, searched for Russell from first light yesterday and were joined by four other fixed-wing aircraft and a helicopter. Several race yachts also helped in the search, which was coordinated by the Wyuna research vessel.

Coastguards said that the search for Russell had been suspended as there was little hope of finding him alive.

The bill for damages to race yachts has been put at more then £700,000. Yachtsmen have questioned some of the designs and modern materials used in ocean racing yachts which, while increasing the speed and cutting weight, reduce the yacht's ability to withstand heavy seas.

Lion of New Zealand was leading the race, which started on Boxing Day, by 40 kilometres late last night.

CRICKET

Kapil Dev decision

The England players were given an unexpected day off yesterday as a reward for their four-wicket win over India in the one-day international at Cuttack. They will now practise only today and tommorrow in preparation for the third Test match, which starts in Calcutta on Monday.

India's 14-strong squad for the Test began practising in Calcutta yesterday morning and learned later that Kapil Dev would not be joining them. He was dropped for reckless batting during the second Test, but a meeting between Kapil Dev, the captain Sunil Gavaskar, and the president of the Indian board, N K P Salve, led to a recommendation that he should be reinstated.

The Indian selection committee, under pressure because Kapil Dev's supporters in Calcutta had threatened to disrupt the match unless he played, decided after a long meeting that they would not reinstate him to the Test squad.

Lawson report

Sydney (Reuter) – A decision on the West Indian board complaints about the behaviour of the Australian fast bowler, Geoff Lawson, during the fourth Test match is expected today.

The West Indians are believed to be upset over alleged incidents involving Lawson and the batsman, Gordon Greenidge, and also about Lawson's behaviour towards the umpire, Steve Randall. The Australian team manager, Bob Merriman, said yesterday that he had already spoken to Lawson briefly about the complaints.

WEEKEND FOOTBALL AND OTHER FIXTURES

Kick-off 3.0 unless stated

First division

Chelsea v Manchester United
Coventry City v West Ham United
Ipswich Town v Everton
Liverpool v Luton Town
Newcastle United v Arsenal
Nottingham Forest v Aston Villa
Southampton v Sheffield Wed
Stoke City v QPR
Tottenham v Sunderland
Watford v Leicester City
West Bromwich v Norwich City

Second division

Barnsley v Notts County
Birmingham City v Fulham
Blackburn Rovers v Huddersfield
Brighton v Wimbledon
Charlton v Grimsby Town
Leeds United v Cardiff City
Manchester City v Wolves
Middlesbrough v Oldham Athletic
Oxford United v Crystal Palace
Sheffield United v Portsmouth
Shrewsbury Town v Carlisle

GOLA LEAGUE: Altrincham v Dagenham; Barrow v Northwich Victoria; Bath v Dartford; Enfield v Boston United; Frickley Athletic v Nuneaton; Gateshead v Kettering; Kidderminster v Scarborough; Runcorn v Yeovil; Telford United v Barnet; Wealdstone v Maidstone; Weymouth v Worcester.

IRISH LEAGUE (2.15): Bangor v Cliftonville; Coleraine v Carrick Rangers; Crusaders v Ards; Glenavon v Distillery; Glentoran v Portadown (3.0); Larne v Ballymena; Newry Town v Linfield.

NORTHERN PREMIER LEAGUE: Bangor v Goole; Burton Albion v Oswestry; Chorley v Worksop; Gainsborough v Southport; Grantham v Mossley; Harwich v Rhyl; Hyde United v Buxton; Marine v Workington; Morecambe v Macclesfield; Sth. Liverpool v Stafford Rangers; Witton Albion v Matlock.

SOUTHERN LEAGUE: Premier division: Chelmsford v Alvechurch; Corby v Folkestone; Fisher Ath v Cheltenham; Gloucester v King's Lynn; Hastings v Bedworth; R S Southampton v Willenhall; Shepshed v Gravesend; Welling Utd v Crawley; Witney Tn v Fareham Town. Midland division: Aylesbury v Hednesford; Banbury v Redditch; Leicester United v Coventry Sporting; Merthyr Tydfil v Bridgnorth; Moor Green v Milton Keynes; Oldbury v Willingborough; VS Rugby v Stourbridge. Southern division: Andover v Salisbury; Cambridge City v Dorchester; Canterbury v Ashford; Dover v Woodford; Erith and Belvedere v Addlestone and Weybridge; Hillingdon v Tonbridge; Poole v Chatham; Thanet v Basingstoke v Sheppey.

FA VASE: Third round (2.0): Braintree v Wivenhoe; Egham v Leyton Wingate; Sholing v Bristol Manor Farm; Uxbridge v Eastbourne United. Third round replay: Collier Row v Bracknell.

SERVOWARM ISTHMIAN LEAGUE: Premier division: Barking v Leytonstone-Ilford; Billericay v Dulwich Hamlet; Bishop's Stortford v Hitchin; Croydon v Epsom and Ewell; Harrow v Harlow; Sutton United v Bognor Regis; Tooting and Mitcham v Slough; Walthamstow v Wycombe; Workingham v Windsor and Eton; Worthing v Hayes. First division: Boreham Wood v Maidenhead; Bromley v Aveley; Chesham v St Albans; Farnborough v Leatherhead; Hertford v Kingstonian; Hornchurch v Woking; Lewes v Hampton; Oxford City v Metropolitan Police; Staines v Basildon; Tilbury v Clapton; Walton and Hersham v Wembley. Second division north: Chalfont St Peter v Berkhamsted; Harefield v Flackwell Heath; Hemel Hempstead v Barton; Heybridge v Royston; Letchworth Garden City v Tring; Marlow v Kingsbury; Saffron Walden v Cheshunt; Ware v Haringey; Wolverton v Stevenage. Second division south: Camberley v Whyteleafe; Chertsey v Petersfield; Dorking v Newbury; Feltham v Banstead; Grays v Ruislip Manor; Molesey v Southall.

Third division

Bradford v Bolton Wanderers
Brentford v Reading
Bristol City v Burnley
Cambridge United v Rotherham
Gillingham v Bristol Rovers
Millwall v Bournemouth
Newport County v Plymouth
Orient v Doncaster Rovers
Swansea City v Derby County
Walsall v Lincoln City
Wigan Athletic v Preston
York City v Hull City

Fourth division

Aldershot v Wrexham
Blackpool v Hartlepool United
Bury v Tranmere Rovers (3.15)
Chester v Swindon Town
Chesterfield v Peterborough
Darlington v Crewe Alexandra
Exeter City v Hereford United
Halifax Town v Stockport County (P)
Northampton v Torquay United
Scunthorpe United v Rochdale
Southend United v Mansfield Town

NORTH WEST COUNTIES LEAGUE: Bootle v Accrington Stanley; Caernarfon v Penrith; Eastwood Hanley v Burscough; Fleetwood v Congleton; Glossop v Curzon Ashton; Leyland Motors v Stalybridge Celtic; Netherfield v St Helens; Prescot Cables v Formby; Radcliffe v Lancaster; Winsford v Leek.
NORTHERN COUNTIES EAST LEAGUE: Premier division: Alfreton v Guiseley; Belper v Denaby; Emley v Eastwood; Heanor v Boston; Ilkeston v Bentley Victoria; Mexborough v Bridlington Trinity; Spalding v Appleby-Frodingham; Sutton Town v Arnold; Thackley v Guisborough.
GREAT MILLS WESTERN LEAGUE (2.30): Premier division: Barnstaple v Melksham; Chippenham v Taunton; Clandown v Frome; Clevedon v Paulton; Dawlish v Bideford; Devizes v Exmouth; Mangotsfield v Weston-super-Mare; Plymouth v Minehead; Saltash v Shepton Mallet.

SOUTH EAST COUNTIES LEAGUE (11.00): First division Fulham v Watford; Ipswich v Southend; Millwall v Arsenal; Orient v Portsmouth; Tottenham v Cambridge; West Ham v Chelsea. Second division: Bristol Rovers v Wimbledon; Crystal Palace v Brighton; Luton v Brentford; West Ham v Oxford.
HELLENIC LEAGUE: Premier division: (2.15): Abingdon v Hounslow; Almondsbury Greenway v Fairford; Bicester v Thame; Clanfield v Wantage; Didcot v Maidenhead; Moreton v. Abingdon; Morris Motors v Supermarine; Sharpness v Shortwood; Wallingford v Rayners Lane.
EASTERN COUNTIES LEAGUE (2.30): Chatteris v Colchester; Clacton v Ely; Felixstowe v Stowmarket; Great Yarmouth v Haverhill; Harwich and Parkeston v Tiptree; Lowestoft v Histon; March v Brantham; Sudbury v Soham; Thetford v Braintree; Wisbech v Bury. League Cup: Gorleston v Newmarket.
LONDON SPARTON LEAGUE: Premier division: (2.15): Danson v Amersham (2.30); Hanwell v Collier Row (2.30) Pennant v Beckton (2.30); Redhill v Burnham; Swanley Town v Corinthian Casuals (2.30); Thatcham v Beaconsfield; Waltham Abbey v Edgware (2.30).

UNITED COUNTIES LEAGUE: Premier division: Baldock v Wootton; Buckingham v Potton; Desborough v Raunds; Long Buckby v Brackley (2.15); Rothwell v Eynesbury; Stamford v S and L Corby; Stotfold v Newport Pagnell; St Neots v Bourne (2.15). League Cup: Holbeach v Arlesey (1.45); Towcester v Irthlingborough Diamonds (1.45).
ESSEX SENIOR LEAGUE (2.30): Brentwood v Eton Manor; Canvey Island v Sawbridgeworth; East Thurrock v Chelmsford; Ford v Coggeshall; Halstead v East Ham; Stansted v Brightlingsea; Witham v Bowers.
SUSSEX SENIOR CUP: Third round replays: Southwick v Horsham; Steyning v Pagham.

Scottish premier division

Celtic v Dundee United
Dumbarton v Rangers
Dundee v Hibernian
Hearts v Morton
St Mirren v Aberdeen

Scottish first division

Airdrieonians v Meadowbank
Brechin City v Clyde
Falkirk v East Fife
Hamilton v Ayr United
Kilmarnock v Motherwell
Partick Thistle v Forfar Athletic
St Johnstone v Clydebank

Scottish second division

Albion Rovers v Queen's Park
Alloa Athletic v East Stirling
Arbroath v Raith Rovers
Berwick v Stranraer
Cowdenbeath v Stenhousemuir
Montrose v Queen of South
Stirling Albion v Dunfermline

HERTS SENIOR TROPHY: Second round: BROB Barnet v Sandridge.
COMBINED COUNTIES LEAGUE (2.00): Ash v Cove; BAe (Weybridge) v Fleet; Chobham v Farnham; Cobham v Horley; Farleigh v Virginia Water; Hartley v Frimley Green; Malden Town v Westfield; Merstham v Malden Vale.

HOCKEY

ATARI LONDON LEAGUE: (2.15): Premier Division: Blackheath v St Albans. League: Guildford v Hounslow; Hawks v Surbiton; Tulse Hill v Reading.
TRUMAN SOUTH LEAGUE: Middlesex/Bucks, Bucks and Oxon: Richings Park v Gerrards Cross.
WOMEN'S COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP TOURNAMENTS: East (at Eurosports Village, Shotley Gate, near Ipswich, 9.45); Midlands (at Bedford College of Higher Education, 9.45); North (at Queen Mary School, Lytham St Annes, 10.0); South (at Bisham Abbey, 10.0); West (at Cheltenham Ladies' College, 10.30).

BASKETBALL

CRYSTAL PALACE: World Invitation Club Championships.
NATIONAL LEAGUE: First division: Leicester v Doncaster (4.0). Second division: McEwan Tyneside v Team Wakefields Nottingham (4.0); Team Telecom Colchester v Team Sandwell (4.0); Swindon Rakers v ANC Stoke (4.0).

LACROSSE

NORTH OF ENGLAND LEAGUE: First Division: Old Hulmeians v Sale; Old Stopfordians v Cheadle; South Manchester & Wythenshawe v Old Waconians; Timperley v Stockport.



Michael Robinson: likely to make his debut for Queen's Park Rangers at Stoke

RUGBY UNION

TOUR MATCH

Northern Division v Romania (at Birkenhead Pk) 1.30

REPRESENTATIVE MATCHES

Anglo Scots v Glasgow (at Richmond) 2.15
South of Scotland v North and Midlands (at Murrayfield, 2.15)

CLUB MATCHES

Aberavon v Abertillery
Birmingham v Glamorgan Wdrs (2.30)
Coventry v Cardiff
Ebbw Vale v Tredegar
Fylde v Sale (2.15)
Gala v Langholm (2.15)
Glasgow Acads v Melrose (2.15)
Gloucester v Bridgend
Halifax v Headingley (2.30)
Harrogate v Wakefield (2.15)
Hartlepool Rovers v Gosforth (2.15)
Heriot's F.P. v Watsonians (2.15)
Huddersfield v Vale of Lune (2.30)
Kelso v Alnwick (2.15)
Llanelli v Bristol
London Scottish v Harlequins (2.15)
Metro. Police v Esher (2.30)
Neath v Maesteg
Newport v Torquay
Northampton v Bath
Northern v Morley (2.15)
Nottingham v Wasps
Nuneaton v Manchester (2.30)
Otley v Liverpool (2.30)
Penarth v Sth Wales Police
Pontypool v Newbridge
Rosslyn Pk v Bedford
Rugby v Roundhay (2.30)
Saracens v Richmond (2.30)
Selkirk v Hawick (2.15)
Stewart's/Mel F.P. v Boroughmuir (2.15)
Waterloo v Moseley (2.30)
Weston-s-Mare v Cross Keys
Widnes v Orrell (2.30)
Wilmslow v Broughton Park (2.30)

BISLEY OFFICE EQUIPMENT SOUTHERN MERIT TABLE: Havant v High Wycombe
EASTERN COUNTIES MERIT TABLE: Sudbury v Brentwood
HERTS MERIT TABLE: Bacavians v Letchworth Garden City.
SEVERN COUNTIES MERIT TABLE: Woodford v Askeans; Streatham-Croydon v Upper Clapton.
OTHER MATCH: Blackheath v Sidcup (2.15).

RUGBY LEAGUE

JOHN PLAYER SPECIAL TROPHY: Semi-final: Hull KR v Halifax (at Leeds, 2.45).

TOMORROW

HOCKEY

WOMEN'S COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP TOURNAMENTS: East (at Eurosports Village, Shotley Gate, near Ipswich, 9.45); Midlands (at Bedford College of Higher Education, 9.45); North (at Queen Mary School, Lytham St Annes, 10.0); South (at Bisham Abbey, 10.0); West (at Cheltenham Ladies' College, 10.30).
INDOOR TOURNAMENTS: Maidenhead (10.30 am).

BASKETBALL

CRYSTAL PALACE: World Invitation Club Championships.
NATIONAL LEAGUE: First division: Leicester v Doncaster (4.0). Second division: McEwan Tyneside v Team Wakefields Nottingham (4.0); Team Telecom Colchester v Team Sandwell (4.0); Swindon Rakers v ANC Stoke (4.0).

RUGBY LEAGUE

FIRST DIVISION: Hull v Featherstone
SECOND DIVISION: Dewsbury v Batley (3.30); Salford v Blackpool; Sheffield Eagles v Doncaster (2.30)

OTHER SPORT

RACKETS: Swallow Trophy under-24 open singles (at Queen's Club).

The Cresta Run: a centenarian with a British bloom on its cheeks



The snows of yesteryear: Poldi Berchtold, of Switzerland, before the skeleton men took to the skinsuit

Where a hundred years have passed in a hair-raising blur

If the weather is kind these will be heady days for the brave souls who risk life and limb on the Creata Run at St Moritz. They are generally fast livers but for all that they will be at the Run, ready for their first course of the day, before other overnight revellers can bear to get up and face the new day. The breath will issue from them in plumes of white vapour in the crisp cold as they equip themselves for three quarters of a mile of free-fall at speeds touching 80 mph.

They will be a cosmopolitan bunch but the English language will be prominent, as it has been since the Run was opened for the first time a century ago under British inspiration. Switzerland readily recognizes the here, as with other winter sports, the British told them what to do with their stupendous mountains and helped to lay the foundations for this booming area of Swiss prosperity.

The Cresta was built for the first time in the winter of 1884-85 and has been reconstructed for racing to virtually the same specifications every season since, with a length of 1,328 yards down to the hamlet of Cresta (now swallowed up by the village of Celerina), giving a vertical drop of 572 feet.

A refined form of toboggan, called a skeleton, is used on the Cresta (as distinct from the sledges for two men and four men on the bob run nearby), with a sliding platform which allows the weight to be transferred according to the demands of the serpentine track. With no mechanical aid, speeds of more than 80 mph are recorded, stomach down and with the face therefore in daunting proximity to the glistening ice.

Shuttlecock Club's large membership

It is hair-raising for spectators and riders alike, yet few serious injuries have occurred, again as distinct from the bob runs here and elsewhere. Unskilled riders are apt to be thrown out before too great a speed has been reached and long is the list of members of the Shuttlecock Club, for those who have been unable to negotiate that demanding corner.

A ball in London has already launched the celebrations. They come to a climax that will have the Kulm Hotel in riotous turmoil during the week from February 2 to 9, culminating in the aptly named Grand National.

The British have maintained a dominant role in the administration and performance of the Cresta. The first Lord Brabazon of Tara was a towering influence in both areas, the president of the St Moritz Tobogganing Club on 14 occasions and still riding at the age of 75.

A Swiss, Franco Gansser, has established himself as the leading rider, with a Briton of the new generation, James Sunley, challenging his supremacy. Sunley, aged 21, broke the record from Top three times last season before being overtaken by Gansser in the last week or so. Gladiatorial retribution may be at hand.

John Hennessy

● *The St Moritz Tobogganing Club have produced a booklet, titled* The Cresta Run 1885-1985, *including historical photographs and documents and a history of the run by the club's president, Roger Gibbs. With a brief foreword by the Duke of Edinburgh, it is available from Henry Melland Ltd, 23 Ridgmount Street, London WC1, price £6.95.*

RACING

Warden holds the key to two of Ayr's top prizes

By Mandarin (Michael Phillips)

Dick Warden, who is best known as Sheikh Mohammed's adviser on bloodstock, has a good chance of being in the limelight on his own account today at Ayr, where Karenomore and Jobroke appear to have an excellent opportunity of carrying his green, red and black racing colours to a popular double.

Karenomore should not be hard pressed to gain a third successive victory in the Tairlaw Novices' Chase after an emphatic win at Newcastle on December 1 when he had The Small Miracle 18 lengths in arrears. Ninety minutes later his stable companion, Jobroke, will get his opportunity to win his fourth race off the reel this season in the Arpax 80 Handicap Hurdle.

Jobroke's original objective, at Wetherby on Thursday, fell victim to bad weather. It would be difficult to exaggerate the ease with which Jobroke won his last race. He is clearly a horse who is improving all the while, just the sort capable of defying a penalty.

Emo Forever, a travelling companion from Peter Easterby's Malton yard, could help to make this yet another day for their successful trainer to savour by winning the Lauriestón Novices' Hurdle at the expense of Boardmans Coronet. However, I am inclined to doubt whether Carneades, another member of the same team will catch that tough front-runner, Harry Hastings, in the Ladbroke Novices Handicap Hurdle (qualifier).

Brunton Park, who had his last race seemingly in his pocket until he fell at the last fence, has an excellent chance of retrieving those losses by winning the Glentrool Handicap Chase, despite carrying 11st 10lb.

With John Spearing's horses in such fine fettle – the Alcester trainer sadled one winner at Wolverhampton on Boxing Day followed by a couple there 24 hours later – no one should be surprised if he is seen in the winners' enclosure again at Newbury today after the L'Oreal Handicap Hurdle, which I expect to be won by *Ishkomann.*

A decent novice two seasons ago when he won four times, Ishkomann then lost his from last season, which he went through without even managing to catch the judges's eye. As a result, the handicapper dropped him in the weights before the start of the current campaign. However, now that he is back in the winning groove again – he won his last race nicely at Doncaster and the one before that at Worcester – Ishkomann looks to have a sound chance of picking up his third prize of the season at the expense of Dalbury and Prideaux Boy.

Weather permitting, the card at the Berkshire course should begin with another victory by Drumadowney in the Elcot Park Novices' Chase. And, if he consents to do his best, Romany Nightshade should complete a double for Tim Forster, the trainer, whose horses are in such fine form, and Hwyel Davies' the stable jockey.

The Breener, who impressed twice at Newbury already this season, is taken to gain a third win there in the Challow Hurdle, although I would not care to wager much on him beating tough opposition.

Green Bramble (nap), on the other hand, does look a gilt-edged bet to win the Weyhill Handicap Chase, even though his weight has been increased to 11st 12lb because of a fine victory at Nottingham a week ago when he treated Grinders with such disdain. The way that he won there over two and three-quarter miles suggested that he wa crying out for a race over even further, which is precisely what he will get this afternoon.

Maganyos, like Green Bramble an inmate of Nicky Henderson's Lambourn stable, can put the icing on the cake for him by winning the second division of the Old Lang Syne Novices' Hurdle at Stratford. Her recent defeat at Ascot at the hands of Chrysaor looked all the more excusable at Kempton Park on Thursday after Chrysaor had run away with his next race.

Course specialists

AYR

JOCKEYS: A Brown 16 winners from 70 rides, 22.9%; P Charlton 16 from 73, 21.9%; R Earnshaw 9 from 42, 21.4%.
TRAINERS: M H Easterby 33 winners from 110 runners, 30.3%; G Richards 54 from 272, 19.9%; W A Stephenson 26 from 172, 15.1%.

NEWBURY

JOCKEYS: J Francome 51 winners from 208 rides, 24.5%; P Scudamore 34 from 174, 19.3%; H Davies 28 from 126, 15.9%.
TRAINERS: F Winter 59 winners from 208 runners, 28.4%; D Nicholson 29 from 143, 20.3%; F Walwyn 19 from 153, 12.4%.

STRATFORD

JOCKEYS: S Morshead 14 winners from 95 rides, 14.7%; J Burke 8 from 55, 14.5%; C Smith 6 from 70, 8.6%.
TRAINERS: F Walwyn 10 winners from 53 runners, 13.9%; J Webber 10 from 39, 18.9%; W Henderson 7 from 51, 13.7%.



Alan Jones, the country's tallest jockey, comes down to earth on Royal Riches at Fontwell (Photograph: Chris Cole)

First-class delivery from McGhin

By Michael Seely

A 36-year-old former postman delivered a 12-1 winner for Michael Haynes at Fontwell Park yesterday. Ray McGhin, who has spent all but two of his working years in racing, rode his first winner over jumps when driving Young Buckers home a length in front of Media Boy in the first division of the Brighton Novices Hurdle.

McGhin works for Phillip Mitchell, the trainer of yesterday's 6-4 on favourite, Diamonds High, who finished a well beaten fifth after colliding with Kerry's Court at the third flight from home. At the final hurdle, Richard Rowe and Media Boy held a narrow advantage but the pair flattened the jump and were immediately overtaken by the winner.

"That was a tremendous thrill", the Durham born jockey said afterwards. "I only took out a licence to ride over jumps this season and I love every moment of it. I ran over a cat on the way here from Epsom, but I didn't know whether it was a good omen or not."

McGhin was originally apperenticed to the late John Sutcliffe senior at Epsom at the age of 16. "That was in the days of Cala Mesquida and all those other good horses. But unfortunately I had a lot of weight problems in those days, and when the governor died I chucked it in and joined the Post Office for a couple of years."

However, McGhin's wife, Lynne, was given an old racehorse as a hack. "One day I went up to the livery yard where it was kept and had a ride. That did it, and I knew that I had to get back into the game again. I rode my first winner on the flat for Mr Mitchell on Blue Garter at Carlisle in the summer of 1982." The jockey now has his weight stabilized and has no difficulty in riding at 8st 2lb.

The sun shone all afternoon on a blissfully happy crowd, who shouted their heads off throught the action-packed proceedings. The biggest round of applause was réserved for Gary Moore after the luckless jockey had finished last of the five finishers on North West behind Master Nibble in the Whitelaw Challenge Cup. North West must have clouted 15 of the 22 fences and the erratic nine-year-old's plucky partner deserved his hero's welcome home.

After Bash Street Kid had fallen at the sixteenth fence, the race became a three-cornered fight between Master Nibble, Rib Law and The Somac. Master Nibble appeared to be labouring a mile from home but took on a new lease of life turning for home. Allen Webb sent the 5-2 favourite into the lead at the second-last and the pair went clear to win by a length and a half.

Master Nibble is one of 22 horses trained at Chalfont St Giles by Clive Holmes. The trendily dressed trainer is certainly a versatile operator as he is not only a director of the Abbey Life Insurance group but also runs a beef herd at his home in Buckinghamshire.

The afternoon's "good thing", Joy Ride, duly obliged in the Salmon Spray Hurdle. However, Steve Smith Eccles had to work his hardest before the 3-1 on favourite scrambled home only half a length ahead of Averon and John Francome. Joy Ride was only cantering in the lead at the final flight but then thought he had done enough.

"He's a marvellous horse and as kind as a Christian", Jeff King, the winning trainer said. "But he's dead idle and couldn't care less. He even tripped up on the roads near Swindon one morning when my head lad was on board. So now I ride him myself."

The trainer bought the four-year-old for 19,000 guineas out of Bruce Hobbs's stable at Doncaster. "I won't send Joy Ride to Cheltenham as there's so much luck involved at the big meeting. I'll probably keep him for a race at Liverpool, which is a much fairer track", King said.

The opening race of the afternoon, the Tortington Selling Handicap ended in early disaster for Alan Jones when Royal Riches charged the tape and unseated the tallest jockey in the country at the first fence. The race was won by Pat Corrigan on Pompous Prince, but the pair had to fight their hardest

The afternoon ended on a note of triumph for Dina Smith, the Chichester trainer, when Richard Rowe and Double Swing proved too strong for Petit Pain and John Francome in the second division of the Brighton Novice's Hurdle. Fred Winter's recent Hereford winner appeared to be going the better when he moved up to challenge but Double Swing soon regained the upper hand to win by five lengths.

"I don't know whether he'll be good enough to run in the Triumph Hurdle at Cheltenham eventually", Mrs Smith said afterwards. "First of all, we'll bring him back here for a £5,000 race on February 4."

Hynes hits the heights

The two sponsored handicaps at Leopardstown yesterday were won by rank outsiders (Our Irish Correspondent writes). Yankee's Princess, a past winner of the Irish Lincolnshire, came from a long way behind to catch Rosical and Racing Bloom after the final flight and go on to win by two lengths in the Black and White Whisky Hurdle. The winner is trained by Arthur Moore and was the biggest success to date for his claiming rider, Padraig Hynes.

The favourite and top weight, Passage Creeper, was struggling from the second last hurdle and eventually failed to reach the first six. For the future, though, one should take special stock of Rosical, who was having his first outing since May and who got an easy ride from Ken Morgan. His trainer, Michael Cunningham, was quick to nominate him a certain winner in the Sweeps Hurdle on this course on January 12.

While Yankee's Princess started at 33-1, there was also negligible suppport for King's Servant who started at 20-1 in an 11-runner field for the Black and White Whisky Chase. The favourite, Kilkilowen, flattered when leading into the final fence but on the run in found the concession of 33lb to King's Servant just beyond him going under by a neck.

AYR (ITV)

[Televised: 1.20, 1.50, 2.20]
GOING: good to soft

12.50 TAIRLAW NOVICES' CHASE (£1,139: 2m) (6 runners)

1	12-0011	KARENOMORE (D) (Lt-Col R Warden) M H Easterby 6-11-13	A Brown
3	f21-f14	PEBBLE ISLAND (D) (BF) (Mrs R Docchar) G Richards 5-11-8	D Coakley 4
5	240/130	THE SMALL MIRACLE (C,D) (Mrs J Jones) N Bycroft 6-11-8	P A Charlton
10	/00-21p	SCOTTISH DREAM (R Tyrer) G Richards 6-11-3	N Doughty
11	0000-03	SWORD GAME (K McDonald) W D Fairgrieve 8-11-3	T G Dun
12	00u-0up	TAMSON'S TIPPLE (D Robertson) D Robertson 8-11-3	Mr D Robertson

1983: Drum Rufagh 6-11-9 P Charlton (5-1) M Lambert 13 ran.

4-5 Karenomore, 4 Pebble Island, 9-2 The Small Miracle, 7 Scottish Dream, 14 Sword Game, 25 Tamson's Tipple.

Ayr selections

By Mandarin

12.50 Karenomore. 1.20 Harry Hastings. 1.50 Brunton Park. 2.20 Jobroke. 2.50 The Divider. 3.20 Emo Forever.
Michael Seely's selection: 3.20 Emo Forever.

1.20 LADBROKE NOVICES' HANDICAP HURDLE QUALIFIER (£2,131: 2m) (8)

1	11	HARRY HASTINGS (C,D) (R Leask) J S Wilson 5-12-0	C Grant
4	1311	HAND OVER (D) (Mrs M Haggas) Mrs M Dickinson 5-11-12	R Earnshaw
5	22-1211	MUSIC BE MAGIC (D) (N Mason) G Richards 5-11-10	N Doughty
6	011	CARNEADES (D) (Timeform Social Club) M H Easterby 4-11-4	J J O'Neill
8	340-121	AMBER RAMBLER (D) (D Silverton) H Wharton 6-11-2	P Tuck
12	042-003	RIBBONS OF BLUE (Mrs P Watts) J Watts 4-10-0	G W Gray
16	030234/	VIMYS PET (T Barnes) T Barnes 7-10-0	M Barnes
17	040/4-4	RUSHYFORD (W A Stephenson) W A Stephenson 6-10-0	Mr P J Dun

1983: Tepylon 4-10-10 P A Charlton (11-8 fav) M Lambert 19 ran.

9-4 Harry Hastings, 3 Carneades, 7-2 Music Be Magic, 4 Hand Over, 8 Amber Rambler, 14 Ribbons Of Blue, 16 Rushyford, 20 Vimys Pet.

FORM: HARRY HASTINGS (11-12) 15l course and distance winner from Gennaro (10-5) (£1242, soft, Nov 24, 7 ran). HAND OVER, 6l Wetherby winner last time, previously (11-5) made all for 2½l Hexham victory over MUSIC BE MAGIC (11-5) (2m hdle, £1253, soft, Oct 24, 14 ran). MUSIC BE MAGIC has since won twice, including (11-6) by 3l from Lord Merlin (11-1) at Leicester last time (2m hdle, £1382, soft, Nov 19, 22 ran). CARNEADES (11-5) 8l Newcastle winner from Maggie's Girl (10-9) (2m 120yds hdle, £756, Heavy, Dec 1, 8 ran). AMBER RAMBLER (10-13) ran on to beat Singlecote (10-7) ¾l at Nottingham (2m hdle, £739, good, Dec 3, 19 ran).
Selection: MUSIC BE MAGIC.

1.50 GLENTROOL HANDICAP CHASE (£2,385: 3m 3f 40yd) (6)

1	1f1-22f	BRUNTON PARK (Mrs J Bendall) Mrs M Dickinson 6-11-10	G Bradley
2	40p-204	COCKLE STRAND (C) (Col D Greig) K Oliver 11-11-9	T G Dun
4	20-0014	RUN'N FLY (Mrs A Mactaggart) A Mactaggart 9-11-3	M Dwyer
7	331f0u	SUCCEEDED (W A Stephenson) W A Stephenson 7-10-11	Mr P J Dun
9	011404	IMMIGRATE (W Stevenson-Taylor) G Richards 11-10-6	N Doughty
10	1p34u1	BITTERMAN (P Warters) J Jefferson 7-10-0 (4 ex)	C Grant

1983: (2m 4f) Final Argument 7-11-11 R Barry (3-1 jt-fav) G Richards 10 ran.

5-2 Brunton Park, 3 Run'N Fly, 7-2 Cockle Strand, 9-2 Succeeded, 7 Immigrate, 8 Bitterman.

FORM: BRUNTON PARK (11-2) travelling like a winner when last fence faller at Catterick won by by Blue Reef (10-12) (3m 300yds ch, £2544, good Dec 19, 8 ran. COCKLE STRAND (10-9) 18½l fourth of 6 to Why Forget (10-7) at Kelso (3m 4f, ch, £2892, good to soft, Nov 1) RUN'N FLY (10-2) 8l winner here from Mr Snugg (10-0) 3m 180yds, ch, £2544, good to soft, Nov 24, 11 ran). IMMIGRANT (10-9) 20l 4th of 7 to Last Deal (11-13) at Wedgefield (3m 600yds ch, £1234, good to soft Dec 11). BITTERMAN (10-0) 4l Carlisle winner over Strawhill (11-1) when SUCCEEDED (11-4) unseated rider at the 10th (3m ch, £1582, soft, Dec 20, 5 ran).
Selection: BRUNTON PARK.

2.20 ARPAX 80 HANDICAP HURDLE (£2,401: 2m) (7)

1	121/033	ALTEN GLAZED (D) (Exors of late J Widdall) M Naughton 7-11-10	P A Farrell 7
2	112-200	L O BROADWAY (C,D) (Lt-Col D Pain) R Fisher 6-11-4	K Teelan 4
3	14-3111	JOBROKE (D) (Lt-Col R Warden) M H Easterby 4-11-3 (6 ex)	Mr T Easterby
7	101-f22	CENTRE ATTRACTION (C,D) (BF) (N Mason) G Richards 5-10-1	N Doughty
8	141121	MARK EDELSON (C,D) (M Parrish) J Jefferson 7-10-1	M Hill 7
9	000-030	COLONEL ROSE (C,D) (T Goldie) T Goldie 7-10-0	Mr G Harker
11	100-001	ALBERTAT (D) (J Spedding) Denys Smith 4-10-0 (4 ex)	C Grant

1983: Allenea 5-11-9 J J O'Neill (100-30) C H Bell 13 ran.

6-4 Jobroke, 4 L O Broadway, 5 Mark Edelson, 6 Centre Attraction, 7 Alten Glazed, 10 Albertat, 14 Colonel Rose.

FORM: ALTEN GLAZED (11-8) beaten distance in 3rd behind Browne's Gazette (11-9) at Newcastle (2m 120yds hdle, £5,986, heavy, Nov 17, 8 ran). JOBROKE (10-8) easy 10l Wetherby winner, with LO BROADWAY (11-7) beaten total of 18l 6th after blundering 2 out when in with every chance, and ALBERAT (10-0) 11th of 13 (2m hdle, £3,288, good, Dec 8). CENTRE ATTRACTION (11-3) 7l 2nd of 10 to The Small Miracle (11-8) in 2m Nov chase here (£1,125, soft, Nov 23). MARK EDELSON (11-6) had COLONEL ROSE (11-7) 10l away in 3rd when Hexham winner (2m hdle, £1,263, heavy, Dec 5, 6 ran). ALBERTAT (11-7) beaten ¾l but awarded Kelso race on disqualification of Tarchin (11-11) (2m hdle, £524, soft, Dec 21).
Selection: JOBROKE

2.50 BENNAN NOVICES' CHASE (£1,213: 2m 4f) (8)

1	0/21-41	DURHAM EDITION (R Ouley) W A Stephenson 6-11-3	R Lamb
5	100-021	THE DIVIDER (D) (J Aitken) Mrs T Calder 6-11-3	T G Dun
7	0p-4pp3	ANOTHER WAGER (Kitchens for Kitchens) R Fisher 7-10-12	M Meagher 4
11	041-340	FRENCH LORD (Mrs L Meylers) G Richards 6-10-12	D Coakley 4
12	0	LIGHT DEMON (G Richards) G Richards 7-10-12	N Doughty
15	0146u3	THELMAS SECRET (S Brown) T Barnes 7-10-12	M Barnes
17	410-102	EMPRESS JEANNIE (L Foster) L Foster 7-10-7	A Stringer
19	0/10004	WAYZ GOOSE (J Bradburne) Mrs R H-Bradburne 6-10-7	Mrs S Bradburne

1983: (3m 110yds) A Kinsman 7-11-6 T G Dun (1-2 fav) J Brockbank 9 ran.

3 The Divider, 7-2 Durham Edition, 4 Thelmas Secret, 5 French Lord, 6 Empress Jeannie, 10 Another Wager, 12 Light Demon, 25 Wayz Goose.

3.20 LAURIESTON NOVICES' HURDLE (£877: 2m 4f) (7)

2	33p-001	BOARDMANS CORONET (Maj J Robin) G Richards 6-11-5	N Doughty
3	03213	EMO FOREVER (C,D) (A McCluskey) M H Easterby 4-11-5	J J O'Neill
7	00	ARPAL DASH (RTP Adams Ltd) A Scott 4-10-12	P A Charlton
10	f4	TOMMY GE (Mrs J Miller) Mrs J Goodfellow 5-10-12	G Bradley
13	00p0	BRIGHT SUGGESTION (T Goldie) T Goldie 6-10-7	Mr G Harker 7
20	00000-0	COLISLACE (H McConnell) H McConnell 6-10-7	Mr D Swindlehurst
24	3p/2400	SUSANNA (J Andrews) J Andrews 6-10-7	Mrs S Bradburne

1983: Burgundy 4-10-12 Mr A Dudgeon (11-8) C Alexander 22 ran.

5-4 Emo Forever, 6-4 Boardmans Coronet, 8 Arpal Dash, 12 Tommy Ge, 14 Susanna, 16 others.

Bradley in top gear at Taunton

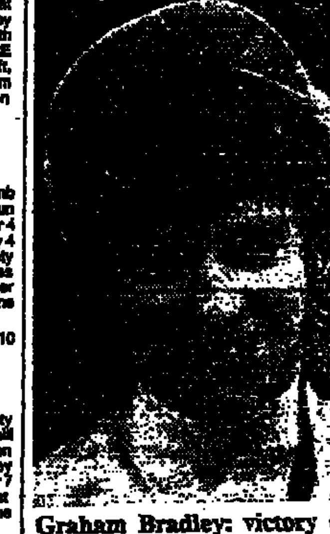
A lot of racegoers arrived late at Taunton for the race meeting yesterday because of traffic problems between the motorway and the racecourse. Among them was Graham Bradley, who had driven down from Yorkshire. He arrived in time to take his only ride of the day, Rhyme 'N Reason, in the Northover Manor Hotel Ilchester Novices' Chase, but encountered no traffic problems in the race itself.

Rhyme 'N Reason, who won five races in a row last season for Michael Dickinson, had not been seen in public since April, and in the meantime moved to David Murray-Smith's Lambourn stable. There was clearly enormous confidence behind him, he was backed from 11-2 down to 2-1 joint favourite, tracked Claude Monet, his market rival, until two fences were left, then quickened impressively to win by seven lengths.

Murray-Smith, who switched his string from Marlborough to Upper Lambourn only a fortnight ago, said: "Rhyme 'N Reason took a bit of time to come to himself after joining me in the summer, and I didn't want to run him until I was sure he was right. He'll have another race similar to this, then we'll think about his future."

Graham Bradley commented "Rhyme 'N Reason has always been a fairly useful horse and I rode him a winner four times for Michael Dickinson. Apart for his one mistake five from home he jumped well."

There were no queues to be paid out by the bookmakers after the first race, the Holly Tree Juvenile Hurdle, on which the 50-1 outsider Major Mark scored by eight lengths. Music My Son set off at a tremendous pace and blazed the trail until he fell at the fifth. The early speed was too much for most, but it proved ideal for the Adrian Sharpe-ridden Major Mark, who struck the front turning for home and romped home to give the Wiltshire trainer Bill Turner his second winner in fortnight.



Graham Bradley: victory on Rhyme 'N Reason at Taunton

STRATFORD-ON-AVON

GOING: soft

1.0 AULD LANG SYNE NOVICES' HURDLE (Div I: £752: 2m) (16 runners)

3	000	ARIANO (B) J Edwards 4-10-12	P Barton
9	430	COUNT FREDERICK T Clay 4-10-12	G Moore
10	p	COURTIERS WAG M Tate 4-10-12	C Smith
13	0-p00	EXPEDITIOUS I Campbell 4-10-12	R Campbell 4
17		GARDEN ROUTE G Thorner 4-10-12	R Kington
19		HEADIN' ON M Eckley 4-10-12	A O'Hagan
26		POKERFAYES B McMahon 5-10-12	T Wall
29	00-03	SPERIAMO Mrs W Sykes 5-10-12	S Morshead
30	2-043	SUPER GRASS (BF) S Mellor 5-10-12	M Perrett
32	001	TRACK RYTHM (D) J Webber 4-10-12	M Jenkins 7
33	0/003	TURKOMAN (B) D Sasse 5-10-12	S Shilston
34	00-0	TWO MINUTES J Spearing 5-10-12	R Dickin
35	f00/-	WATER DRAGON E Witts 4-10-12	C Mann
38	0	MY FANCY P M Taylor 5-10-7	A Carroll
41		SANMERINO SOL J Bradley 5-10-7	G Davies
42		WILD QUEEN W Fisher 4-10-7	P Murphy

1983: Brockley Belle 4-10-7 J McLaughlin (7-2) C Spares 10 ran.

9-4 Super Grass, 7-2 Garden Route, 9-2 Speriamo, 6 Ariano, 8 Track Rhythm, 10 Expeditions, Turkomen, 12 others.

Stratford selections

By Mandarin

1.0 Super Grass. 1.30 Chummy's Boy. 2.0 Jimmy Miff. 2.30 Sandwalker. 3.0 Notre Cheval. 3.30 Maganyos.

1.30 BRAN TUB SELLING HANDICAP HURDLE (£773: 2m) (13)

1	40-01	CHUMMY'S BOY (D) (B) D Burchell 4-12-4 (7 ex)	Mr M Richards 7
2	02-00	LITTLE GINGER (D) B Mc Mahon 5-11-10	Mr E McMahon 7
4	002	PASS ASHORE M Oliver 5-11-5	Mr J Weston
6	0000	KEEP SAUNTERING (D) W G Turner 5-11-2	–
7	3010	EPRYANA (D) M Madgwick 4-11-1	A Madgwick 4
11	p0f0	IN SHIPS (D) C Miller 5-10-9	–
12	030-0	INSPECTOR BEN (B) R Juckes 5-10-7	–
13	0/400	ALEX CHOICE Mrs M Bevan 5-10-6	–
15	04/p0	CHARLES BOOT (B) P Pritchard 5-10-4	C Mann
17	3033	LIGHT SENTENCE P Pritchard 6-10-4	N Fearn 7
19	3440	BILL SANDERS T Hallett 6-10-0	L Bloomfield 4
21	000-0	TUDOR ROOT R Crellin 4-10-0	–
23	p000	HENGCHOW C Bridgett 6-10-0	Mr C Bridgett

1983: Riva be Good 6-11-6 M Caswell (100-30) O O'Neill 11 ran.

11-4 Chummys Boy, 7-2 Pass Ashore, 9-2 Epryana, Light Sentence, 11-2 Little Ginger, 8 Keep Sauntering, 10 others.

2.0 J. H. ROWE CHALLENGE TROPHY HANDICAP CHASE (£2,607: 3m 2f) (9)

5	3p-0u	WOODLANDS LAD (CD) P Pritchard 9-11-9	C Mann
8	p424	NATIVE BREAK Mrs W Sykes 7-11-3	S Morshead
9	10u4	JIMMY MIFF (CD) I Wardle 12-11-2	–
11	2/pu4	LAWN MEET N Henderson 9-10-12	–
12	23-42	HOUSEMISTRESS Miss R Harper 9-10-9	Miss R Harper
14	0-340	CITADEL ROC (B) J Bradley 9-10-7	G Davies
15	2fp3-	LETTERBOX (CD) E Witts 9-10-6	Lorna Vincent
17	332-0	BRONWYN (D) Mrs S Davenport 7-10-2	A Sharpe
18	0042	KEEP A PROMISE J Wilson 6-10-0	Mrs G Rees

1983: Galway Blaze 7-11-1 R O'Leary (7-4 fav) J FitzGerald 7 ran.

3 Housemistress, 4 Jimmy Miff, 5 Keep A Promise, 11-2 Lawn Meet, 13-2 Native Break, 8 Woodlands Lad, Letterbox, 12 others.

2.30 VIVIAN STREET AMATEUR RIDERS HANDICAP CHASE (£1,679: 2m) (7)

2	1-444	LUCYFAR (D) F Walwyn 8-11-7	M Bradstock 7
7	300-0	HILLY WAY (D) P O'Connor 14-10-7	A Hambly 7
8	23-24	HADAJAR (CD) M Tate 9-10-7	R J Beggan
10	4000	SANDWALKER (BF) Mrs M Rimmell 5-10-7	M Price 7
16	pp00	PORTIA'S LAST J Harris 8-10-7	A Walton 7
17	p3f4	HIS MASTER'S VOICE (B) M Henriques 6-10-7	–
18	00/p-0	WISSINGTON JOY P Poston 7-10-7	Mr P Harding-Jones 7

1983: Moonshot 9-10-6 Mr T Thomson Jones (10-1) T Forster 12 ran.

13-8 Lucyfar, 9-4 Hadajar, 9-2 Hilly Way, 11-2 Sandwalker, 14 His Master's Voice, 20 others.

3.0 DARK STRANGERS NOVICES' HANDICAP CHASE (£2,081: 2m 6f) (12)

1	2-p33	EMPEROR CHARLES (BF) F Winter 7-11-10	J Duggan 4
3	3-134	NOTRE CHEVAL S Mellor 5-11-4	M Perrett
12	fu0f	WHITTINGTON Mrs M Easton 6-10-7	–
13	22p-0	ROUGH WIND C Loggin 8-10-7	–
14	33ub	FLYING MISTRESS J Webber 6-10-7	M Jenkins 7
15	3/04-p	GREAT HAYS C Tristine 8-10-6	M Caswell 4
16	0013	POSTDYNE W Mann 9-10-4	–
18	00ff	GAMBLING ABBOTT Mrs M Rimell 6-10-3	S Morshead
19	fpfp	JIMMY FLINT R Dunn 8-10-3	NON-RUNNER
21	3321	LEGAL EMPEROR J FitzGerald 6-10-0	S Keightley
25	0-042	MR CANDY A Moore 5-10-0	G Moore
26	0-002	MIDDLE-MARK M Madgwick 8-10-0	A Madgwick 4

1983: (2m) Elmbrook 7-10-6 R Dickin (7-1) J Spearing 9 ran.

5-2 Legal Emperor, 7-2 Notre Cheval, 4 Emperor Charles, 11-2 Postdyne, 13-2 Mr candy, 8 Flying Mistress, 12 others.

3.30 AULD LANG SYNE NOVICES' HURDLE (Div II: £706: 2m) (17)

1	4133	EUROLINK BOY (D) P Mitchell 5-11-5	A Wright 7
4	1222	MAGANYOS (D) (BF) N J Henderson 4-11-0	J White
5	30-10	RHEFFANOSA (D) Miss A Sinclair 5-11-0	P Croucher 4
7		BACKPACKER T Clay 4-10-12	Mr D Evatt 7
9	0	BURLINGTON LAD J Perrett 5-10-12	J Nolan
10	0p-	COUNTRYWIDE M Oliver 5-10-12	Mr J Weston
11	3403	DERRYINVER R Frost 4-10-12	D Wonnacott 7
16	p	JOB SHOP J Edwards 5-10-12	P Barton
18	04	LISLARRY LAD Mrs M Rimell 4-10-12	S Morshead
22		MIGHTY MUDDLE S Mellor 5-10-12	M Perrett
30	00-u0	AVENITA LADY Mrs A Finch 4-10-7	NON-RUNNER
32	p-	CERVANTE SOVEREIGN J Roberts 5-10-7	R Millman
33	uu-	LITTLE KHAN J Johnson 5-10-7	–
35	00	MISHA J Wilson 4-10-7	Mrs G Rees
38	4/	SALLY BLUE C Jackson 6-10-7	J Burke
41	00	SHARAVOGUE G Prest 7-10-7	–
42	23-23	STARS AND STRIPES (BF) R Frost 5-10-7	J Frost

1983: Burnditch Boy 4-10-9 D Chinn (5-1) M Eckley 12 ran.

Evens Maganyos, 9-2 Rheffansoa, 6 Derryinver, Stars and Stripes, 8 Eurolink Boy, 12 Lislary Lad, 16 others.

Results from two meetings

Fontwell Park

Going: soft with heavy patches.

1.0 (2m 2f ch) 1, POMPOUS PRINCE (P Corrigan, 15-8 fav); 2, City Marathon (Miss Penny Fitch-Hayes, 5-1); 3, Grange Heights (G Newman, 11-2). ALSO RAN: 100-30 Batuk Prince (4th), 9 Tight Schedule (pu), 10 Poor Son (5th), 20 Royal Riches (f). 7 ran. 2l, 10l, 1½l, 15l. S Woodman at Chichester. TOTE: £2.00; £1.30, £2.30. DF: £5.10. CSF: £10.56. Bought in 1,300 gns.

1.30 (2m 2f hdle) 1, JOY RIDE (S Smith Eccles, 1-3 fav); 2, Averon (J Francome, 7-2); 3, Boyne Salmon (R Rowell, 10-1). 3 ran. NR: Little Ray. ½l, 4l. J S King at Swindon. TOTE: £1.30. DF: £1.10. CSF: £1.72.

2.0 (3m 2f ch) 1, MASTER NIBBLE (A Webb, 5-2 fav); 2, Rib Law (M Kinane, 5-1); 3, The Somac (R Rowe, 7-2). ALSO RAN: 100-30 North West (5th), 8 Bash Street Kid (f), 10 Buck Royale (4th). 6 ran. NR: Graiguenamanagh. 1½l, 20l, 12l, not taken. C Holmes at Gerrards Cross. TOTE: £2.70; £1.80, 2.30. DF: £5.50. CSF: £13.65.

2.30 (2m 2f) 1, YOUNG BUCKERS (R McGhinn, 12-1); 2, Media Boy (R Rowe, 4-1); 3, Country Cap (S Shilston, 33-1). ALSO RAN: 4-6 fav Diamonds High (5th), 9 Stampy (4th), 12 Shanyoup, 16 Il Saraceno (6th), 20 Burns Lad, 33 Fordeness (pu), Summerhill Gold (ref), 50 Classic Owen (pu), Sam Pete (pu), Athnassos, Canonbury River, Kerry's Court. 15 ran. 1l, 20l, nk, 1l, dist. M J Haynes at Epsom. TOTE: £10.10; £2.00, £1.60, £7.00. DF: £11.30. CSF: £50.72. Stewards inquiry placings unaltered.

3.0 (2m 2f ch) 1, FIL DE FER (A Madgwick, 3-1); 2, Runwick Prospect (M Kinane, 10-1); 3, Tricky Business (G Moore, 9-2). ALSO RAN: 7-4 fav Awning (f), 100-30 Cinema Joi (f). 5 ran. 20l, 2½l. M Madgwick at Denmead. TOTE: £3.20; £1.10, £3.50. DF: £17.80. CSF: £23.78.

3.30 (2m 2f hdle) 1, DOUBLE SWING (R Rowe, 9-4); 2, Petit Pain (J Francome, 8-15 fav); 3, Shiner's Pal (E Watts, 50-1). ALSO RAN: 10 Atkins (4th), 33 Blackguard (pu), 100 Spartan Bazaar (6th). 6 ran. NR: Meziara. 5l, dist, 8l, not taken. Mrs N Smith at Chichester. TOTE: £2.30; £1.40, £1.10. DF: £1.60. CSF: £3.62. PLACEPOT: £49.25.

Taunton

Going: Soft

12.45 (2m 1f hdle) 1, MAJOR MARK (A Sharpe, 50-1); 2, Refidsha (A Carroll 6-1); 3, Tachador (Peter Hobbs (20-1). Also ran: 4-5 fav The Moocha, 8 Air Strike, My Aisling, 10 Laurenbal (4th), 16 Boldnina (5th), 20 Redgrave Artist (6th), 33 Music My Son (f), 50 Catman, Mr Bennington, Weymouth Bay, Cavan Princess, I Appeal Wolver Plume. NR: Penny Plume. 16 ran. 8l, 4l, 1l, 5l. W G Turner at Hindon. Tote: £182.40, £35.60, £1.70, £2.80. DF £517.90. CSF: £316.74.

1.15 (2m 1f hdle) 1, VALIANT DANCER (R Lawson 12-1); 2, Hasty Thief (F Byrne 12-1); 3, Royal Valeur (G Charles-Jones 5-2 Fav). Also ran: 6 Some Moor (6th), 8 Good Investment (5th), 9 Gold Hunter (4th) 10 Solitair, 16 Sharpen Up Boy, 33 Irish Williams, Stolford, Up At Dawn (p.u.), Aston Bank, Brondean Breeze, Calico Girl, Newton Park, Sioux Princess (p.u.). 17 ran. 2l, 1½l, 8l, 15l, 7l. Peter Taylor at Churt. Tote: £11.70; £2.90, £4.50, £2.00. DF: £99.30. CSF: £128.03.

1.45 (3m 1f ch) 1, RHYME 'N' REASON (G Bradley 2-1 Jt Fav); 2, Claude Monet (R Earnshaw 2-1 Jt Fav); 3, Celtic Beauty (R Arnott 13-2). Also ran: 9-1 Lucky George, 20 Air Space (4th), Brnt (6th), 33 Bay Forest (p.u.), French Lieutenant, Quite Hot (5th), 66 Landes Rocket (f), Pheasant Bridge (p.u.), Tudor Mile (f), Monkton Rill (b.d.). NR Chalford Hill, El Scarsdale. 13 ran. 7l, dist, 2l, 15l, 4l. D J Murray Smith at Marlborough. Tote: £4.10, £1.60, £1.30, £1.50. DF £5.90. CSF: £6.25.

2.15 (2m 1f hdle) 1, MEZIARA (Steve Knight, 10-11 fav); 2, Music Wonder (R Linley, 7-1); 3, Monsoon (P Barton, 7-1). ALSO RAN: 13-2 Panto Prince (4th), 8 Into The Fire (5th), 10 Porthand (f), 11 G W Supermare, Jody's Boy, 50 Chezari, Haddak, Teletrader, Obliged (bd), Diana's Delight, Golden Home (6th), Half A Treat (pu), Thatchova. 17 ran. 6l, 1l, ½l, 2l, 1l. A Ingham at Epsom. TOTE: £2.00; £1.50, £3.10, £2.30. DF: £9.80. CSF: £9.70.

2.45 (2m 3f ch) 1, ST WILLIAM (Peter Hobbs, 2-1 fav); 2, Hever (P Leach, 12-1); 3, Manston Marauder (S Moore, 5-1). ALSO RAN: 7-2 Mood Music (su), 6 The County Stone (5th), 7 Hopeful Answer (f), 16 Kings Singer (4th), 20 Oakprime (su), 33 Miss Abwah (6th), Sabl. 11 ran. ¾l, 15l, 4l, 2½l, 4l. R J Hodges at Somerton. TOTE: £3.70; £1.60, £2.70, £2.50. DF: £44.80. CSF: £25.81. TRICAST: £101.73.

3.15 (3m 1f hdle) 1, ZIPARIS (G Charles Jones, 10-1); 2, Peggy (M Palmer, 14-1); 3, Hand Me Down (P Croucher, 7-1); 4, Princess Isis (J Duggan, 5-1). ALSO RAN: 5-4 fav Falkland Conqueror (6th), 16 Tijuca, 20 Arctic Gipsy, 25 Derbyshire Flat, Gold Floor, Royal Buskins, 33 Harlow Mill, Hopeful Courage, Lift High (6th), Swift Encounter, Undeb (su), 100 Ottarden, Pydie Lady (pu), Brigadier Rose (su). 18 ran. NR: Major Tom. 5l, 1½l, 10l, 3l, 8l. N Lee-Judson at Sindon. TOTE: £13.50; £2.10, £2.40, £1.90, £2.10. DF: £63.20. CSF: £132.94. TRICAST: £961.41.
PLACEPOT: £638.85.

Two meetings lost

Yesterday's meetings at Newcastle and Warwick were cancelled because of heavy overnight frost, but prospects for today's three meetings appear bright.

NEWBURY (BBC)

[Televised: 1.0, 1.30, 2.0, 2.30]
GOING: soft
TOTE: Double 1.30, 2.30. Treble 1.0, 2.0, 2.30.

12.30 ELCOT PARK NOVICES' CHASE (£1,999: 3m) (8 runners)

102	p1p-p11	DRUMADOWNEY (B) (D) (The Lady Vestey) T Forster 8-11-8	H Davies
104	0/f0-12	VALE OF WELTON (BF) (L Connell) N Henderson 8-11-4	S Smith Eccles
105	20p-113	BREAC BAN (Ladbroke Racing) R Champion 5-11-3	G McCourt
106	22200-0	BATCHWORTH (Mrs D Price) N Henderson 8-11-0	J White
108	210/0	CONQUERING (Mrs M Valentine) F Winter 6-11-0	T Gibson 7
111	p/0-444	LAUREL HILL (Maj-Gen R Burges) I Dudgeon 7-11-0	–
112	11-0f2f	PERHAPS LUCKY (Mrs V Hodges) D Elsworth 7-11-0	R Arnott 4
114	04p-04	KALE BRIG (P Axon) P Bowden 9-10-9	A Webber

1983: Co Member 7-11-0 H Davies (10-1) T Forster 14 ran.

2 Drumadowney, 3 Vale Of Welton, 7-2 Breac Ban, 5 Perhaps Lucky, 7 Conquering.

Newbury selections

By Mandarin

12.30 Drumadowney. 1.0 The Breener. 1.30 Ishkomann. 2.0 Romany Nightshade. 2.30 GREEN BRAMBLE (nap) 3.0 Ace of Spies.

By Michael Seely

1.30 ISHKOMANN (nap). 2.0 Romany Nightshade.

1.00 CHALLOW HURDLE (Grade 2: £5,398: 2m 4f 120yd) (9)

201	8-121	CHURCH WARDEN (J Moreton) D Murray-Smith 5-11-5	J Francome
205	222f-1	LUCKY RASCAL (J Ingram) J Gifford 5-11-5	R Rowe
206	42-3111	SUTTON PRINCE (Shaikh Ali Abu Khamsin) F Winter 6-11-5	R Linley
207	11	THE BREENER (C) (R. E. A. Bott) O Sherwood 5-11-5	Mr S Sherwood
211	21	CHIPPED METAL (J Barlow) R Francis 5-11-0	P Scudamore
213	21	HUNTER RIVER (R Sutherland) F Walwyn 6-11-0	R Chapman
217	01	MITILINI (Mrs P Lamos) R Smyth 4-11-0	S Smith Eccles
220	00	SEA RANGER (C Roach) C Roach 4-11-0	B Wright
222	p03-0	HALATION'S FLAIR (K May) Miss P Neal 9-10-9	R Hoare

1983: Catch Phrase 5-11-5 P Double (11-4 fav) J Gifford 8 ran.

5-2 Sutton Prince, 11-4 The Breener, 7-2 Church Warden, 7 Hunter River, Lucky Rascal, 14 Chipped Metal, 16 Mitilini, 50 others.

FORM: CHURCH WARDEN: (11-8) easy 7l Cheltenham winner from Ardesee (10-10) (3m 1f hdle, £1,699, soft, Nov 9, 23 ran). LUCKY RASCAL: (11-0) 2l Sandown Scorer from Ashlone (11-0) (2m hdle, £2,220 good to soft, Nov 30, 21 ran). SUTTON PRINCE: (11-4) hd. MITILINI: (11-0) 19l back in 5th when Sandown winner (2m 5f hdle, £4,604, good to soft, Nov 30, 12 ran). THE BREENER: (11-7) 4l course winner over Welsh Warrior (11-7) (2m 100yds hdle, £2,012, heavy, Nov 24, 19 ran). CHIPPED METAL: (10-7) beat Open the Box (10-7) 3l at Haydock (2m hdle, £1,212, good, Dec 13, 13 ran). HUNTER RIVER: (10-11) 1½l Towcester winner from Tour De Force (10-11) (2m hdle, £630, good to soft, Dec 15, 18 ran).
Selection: SUTTON PRINCE.

1.30 L'OREAL HANDICAP HURDLE (£4,838: 2m 100yd) (11)

303	30-0021	DALBURY (R Smale) P Haynes 6-11-13 (6 ex)	P Corrigan 7
304	04-0400	JADE AND DIAMOND (R Lavelle) G Balding 6-11-2	R Chapman 4
306	004-1f1	PRIDEAUX BOY (C Roach) C Roach 6-11-0	B Wright
307	21-002p	WHOLE SHEBANG (R Bartholomew) A Turnell 5-10-13	Steve Knight
308	0b043-f	FLAREY SARK (D) (D Delaney) R Fisher 7-10-12	J D Doyle 4
313	000-011	ISHKOMANN (Mrs J Warren) J Spearing 5-10-6 (6 ex)	R Linley
314	001-404	JACK O'LANTERN (CD) (W Pigott) P Cundell 8-10-1	R Rowe
315	23130-	HOMEOLA (R Mann) D Nicholson 5-10-0	P Scudamore
317	030-000	SUNFLOWER LAD (M Clemence) T Balgin 5-10-0	J Lovejoy
318	20p/013	BRAUNSTON BROOK (BF) (Mrs E Boucher) D Oughton 6-10-0	P Double
319	83-u400	LOOK AT THAT (R Pollard) J Thorne 6-10-0	J Hurst 7

1983: Cool Decision 6-11-7 R Earnshaw (11-2 jt-fav) Miss S Hall 16 ran.

3 Prideaux Boy, 4 Ishkomann, 9-2 Dalbury, 7 Jack O'Lantern, 8 Braunston Brook, Whole Shebang, 10 Flarey Sark, Jade And Diamond, 15 others.

Form: DALBURY: (11-11) beat Everseal (11-1) 1½l at Lingfield, with JACK O'LANTERN (10-5) another 27l back in 4th, and WHOLE SHEBANG (11-1) pulled up (2m hdle, £3,288, heavy, Dec 22, 11 ran). Previously DALBURY (12-7) 1l 2nd, BRAUNSTON BROOK (10-11) another ½l back in 3rd and JACK O'LANTERN (11-1) 8th of 16 to Berlin (11-4) at Lingfield (2m hdle, £1,480, heavy, Dec 8). Earlier BRAUNSTON BROOK (10-0) 13l 5th, SUNFLOWER LAD (10-3) another ½l away 6th and DALBURY (11-0) 9th of 15 to Royal Brigadier (10-0) at Sandown (2m hdle, £1,265, soft, Nov 19). SUNFLOWER LAD (10-0) had been beaten only 4l when 6th of 14 to Admirals Cup (11-2) here (2m 100yds hdle, £2,842, good, Oct 26). PRIDEUAUX BOY (10-3) had WHOLE SHEBANG (10-7) 5l back in 3rd, promoted to 2nd, at Sandown, when JADE AND DIAMONDS (11-1) was 13th to 14 (2m hdle, £11,444, good to soft, Dec 1). ISHKOMANN (10-12) pushed 3l clear of Rhythmic Pastimes (11-9) at Doncaster (2m 150yds hdle, £2,582, good to firm, Dec 14, 11 ran).
Selection: ISHKOMANN.

2.0 OLD YEAR HANDICAP CHASE (£2,359: 2m 160yd) (4)

402	113-u11	ROMANY NIGHTSHADE (CD) (R Steed) T Forster 8-11-13 (6 ex)	H Davies
405	0-01004	OYSTER POND (K Clarke) M McCourt 7-11-3	G McCourt
408	2f1-0f4	LULAV (C Gaventa) D Nicholson 6-10-13	P Scudamore
409	110113/	BRAVEN (J Berry) J Berry 10-10-11	

1983: Ragafan 6-10-5 R Hughes (12-1) R Smyth 5 ran.

8-11 Romany Nightshade, 7-2 Lulav, 4 Oyster Pond, 11-2 Braven.

2.30 WEYHILL HANDICAP CHASE (£2,653: 3m) (8)

502	3b020-0	WEST TIP (D) (P Luff) M Oliver 7-11-13	R Dunwoody
503	p2p-121	GREEN BRAMBLE (Lady Plummer) N Henderson 7-11-12 (6 ex)	S Smith Eccles
504	334344	SOLID ROCK (C) (R Cottle) D Barons 8-11-6	C Brown
506	pf-0142	PORT ASKAIG (CD) (Ld Chelsea) T Forster 9-11-5	H Davies
507	f420/4u	GLEN BERG (B) (D) (BF) (C Pilkington) F Walwyn 9-11-0	K Mooney
508	04440-0	LENEY DUAL (CD) (J Mawle) D Nicholson 9-10-13	P Scudamore
509	03p-000	GREENBANK PARK (A. F. Budge Ltd) R Perkins 7-10-12	Dai Williams
510	13212-4	SOMMELIER (D) (D Wales) R Gow 6-10-10	A Webber

1983: Burnt Oak 7-11-1 P Scudamore (7-4 fav) D Nicholson 6 ran.

5-2 Green Bramble, 7-2 Sommelier, 9-2 Glen Berg, 6 Port Askaig, 8 West Tip, 10 Solid Rock, 12 Greenbank Park, 14 Leney Dual.

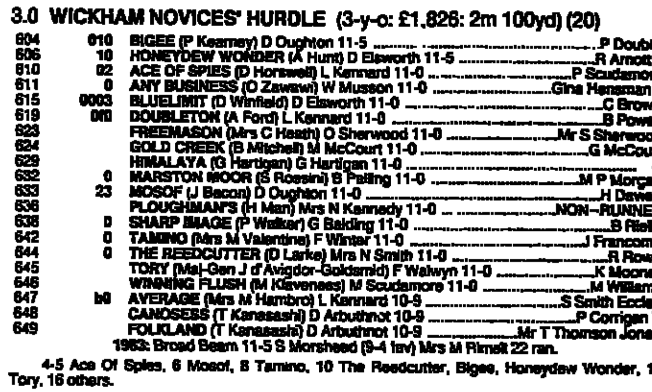
FORM GREEN BRAMBLE (11-5) stayed on for 6l Nottingham victory over Grinders (11-10) (2m 6f ch, £1,629, good, Dec 22). PORT ASKAIG (10-12) 10l 2nd and West Tip (11-6) another 17l away in 5th to Run and Skip (10-10) at Warwick (1,410, heavy, Dec 14, 10 ran). Last season WEST TIP (11-6) 8l 2nd of 8 to Baron Blakeney (11-6) at Liverpool (3m 1f ch, £4,032, good, Mar 29). Earlier this season PORT ASKAIG (10-13) beat SOLID ROCK (11-7) 2l and 2 weeks into 4th over course and distance, £2,443, good, Nov 7, 7 ran). GLEN BERG first run for a couple of seasons when 13½l 4th of 11 to Royscar (10-0) at Devon (3m 1f ch, £1,322, heavy, Dec 7).
Selection WEST TIP

3.0 WICKHAM NOVICES' HURDLE (3-y-o: £1,826: 2m 100yd) (20)

604	010	BIGEE (P Kearney) D Oughton 11-5	P Double
606	10	HONEYDEW WONDER (A Hunt) D Elsworth 11-5	R Arnott 4
610	02	ACE OF SPIES (D Horswell) L Kennard 11-0	P Scudamore
611	0	ANY BUSINESS (O Zawawi) W Musson 11-0	Gina Hensman 7
615	0003	BLUELIMIT (D Winfield) D Elsworth 11-0	C Brown
619	000	DOUBLETON (A Ford) L Kennard 11-0	B Powell
623		FREEMASON (Mrs C Heath) O Sherwood 11-0	Mr S Sherwood
624		GOLD CREEK (B Mitchell) M McCourt 11-0	G McCourt
629		HIMALAYA (G Hartigan) G Hartigan 11-0	–
632	0	MARSTON MOOR (S Rossini) B Palling 11-0	M P Morgan
633	23	MOSOF (J Bacon) D Oughton 11-0	H Dawes
636		PLOUGHMAN'S (H Man) Mrs N Kennedy 11-0	NON-RUNNER
638	0	SHARP IMAGE (P Walker) G Balding 11-0	B Reilly
642	0	TAMINO (Mrs M Valentine) F Winter 11-0	J Francome
644	0	THE REEDCUTTER (D Larke) Mrs N Smith 11-0	R Rowe
645		TORY (Maj-Gen J d'Avigdor-Goldsmid) F Walwyn 11-0	K Mooney
646		WINNING FLUSH (M Klaveness) M Scudamore 11-0	M Williams
647	b0	AVERAGE (Mrs M Hambro) L Kennard 10-9	S Smith Eccles
648		CANOSESS (T Kanasashi) D Arbuthnot 10-9	P Corrigan 7
649		FOLKLAND (T Kanasashi) D Arbuthnot 10-9	Mr T Thomson Jones

1983: Broad Beam 11-5 S Morshead (9-4 fav) Mrs M Rimell 22 ran.

4-5 Ace Of Spies, 6 Mosof, 8 Tamino, 10 The Reedcutter, Bigee, Honeydew Wonder, 14 Tory, 16 others.



Law Report December 29 1984

Chancery Division

Miners entitled to sue union over strike use of funds

Taylor and Another v National Union of Mineworkers (Derbyshire Area) and Others

Before Mr Justice Vinelott

[Judgment delivered December 14]

Members of a union were entitled to sue the union and officers of the union, and those officers who were responsible for misapplication of union funds were liable to make restitution to the union, Mr Justice Vinelott held in the Chancery Division on an application by two miners. His Lordship, however, in delivering judgment on an application by Mr Roland Taylor and Mr David Roberts against the National Union of Mineworkers (Derbyshire Area) and three of its officers, Mr Gordon Taylor, Mr John Burroughs and Mr Austin Fairest, considered it inappropriate to make an order for summary judgment in the unprecedented nature of the case.

Mr Robin Potts, QC and Mr Michael Todd for the plaintiffs; Mr Anthony Scrivener, QC, Mr John G. Hendy and Mr J. McMullen for the defendants.

MR JUSTICE VINELOTT said that the plaintiffs, two working miners, sought summary judgment against the defendants, the National Union of Mineworkers (Derbyshire Area) and three officers, Mr Butler, the secretary, Mr Burroughs, the treasurer, and Mr Fairest, the president of the union.

In the action injunctions were sought restraining the use of funds for strike purposes, and an order requiring the individual defendants to restore to the union the £1,736,789 spent on the strike in the past eight months.

In September the plaintiffs, with another miner, had obtained against the Derbyshire Area, Mr Butler, and Mr Burroughs, the NUM and Mr Arthur Scargill, the interlocutory injunction they sought and a declaration that the strike had been called in breach of the union's rules. There had been no appeal.

On November 5 Mr Taylor and Mr Roberts sought an order restraining the defendants from "using, procuring or permitting" use of the funds for the purposes of the strike, and that his Lordship had granted until the defendants could be heard.

The statement of claim alleged that the individual defendants had acted in breach of fiduciary duty, and were accountable to the union.

The principles applying to the grant or refusal of summary judgment were well settled and not in dispute. The court would not give summary judgment in any case where there was a serious issue of fact that ought to be tried, and leave to defend would normally be given if the case raised a difficult question of law or of construction. On the other hand where the issues were clear and there appeared to be no further evidence that should be advanced, the court would decide the questions of law.

Applying those principles there was no clear evidence that Mr Fairest had authorized the payments or participated therein. The claim was proved against the other two individual defendants who authorized or signed the cheques.

The first question was whether the plaintiffs were entitled to maintain an action against the individual defendants. After examining *Cotter v National Union of Seamen* ([1929] Ch 58); *Edwards v Halliwell* ([1950] 2 All ER 1064); *Taff Vale Railway Co v Amalgamated Society of Railway Servants* ([1901] AC 426); *Howden v Yorkshire Miners Association* ([1903] KB 309; [1905] AC 256); *MacDougall v Gardiner* ((1875) 1 Ch D 13); *Bennett v National Amalgamated Society of Operative House and Ship Painters & Decorators* ((1915) 31 TLR 203; 113 LT 808) and *Carter v United Society of Boilermakers* ((1915) LJ Ch 289), his Lordship said that the principles which emerged seemed to be clear.

Those were that the principle of *Foss v Harbottle* ((1843) 2 Hare 461) applied to a union but did not bar the right of an individual to maintain an action joining the union and its officers as defendants and claiming that a particular application of funds was ultra vires, and for an injunction restraining further misapplication thereof and requiring the officers to make good the loss to the union.

Being ultra vires the misapplication could not be ratified by any majority of the members.

The central issue was whether the payments here in question were misapplications, within the exceptions to the rule in *Foss v Harbottle*. In *Wallersteiner v Moir (No 2)* ([1975] QB 373), Lord Denning, Master of the Rolls, had made it clear that an application such as the present was to be regarded now as a derivative action and not as a representative action at all.

Turning to the question of misapplication or not, his Lordship found himself unable to accept that Mr Scrivener had established even a faintly arguable case that the payments in question were within the powers of the union.

His Lordship said he found himself driven to the conclusion that once it was accepted that the payments in question were made, as they were admittedly made, to pickets and otherwise in furtherance of the strike and to relieve miners on unofficial strike from hardship caused by the stoppage of work and wages, the conclusions that followed inevitably were: (1) The payments were beyond the powers of the union. (2) The two officers who made or sanctioned the payments were liable to re-imburse the union. (3) The plaintiffs were entitled maintain the action. (4) The misapplication of the union's funds could not be ratified by all the members.

However, his Lordship concluded he should not make the order sought. Although the misapplication of the funds of a corporate body, including for this purpose union funds, could not be ratified by all the members, it was open to the majority of the members if they thought it right in the interests of the corporate body to resolve that no action be taken to remedy the wrong. The inevitable costs to a trading company might outweigh any benefit.

Mr Potts submitted that it would be wrong to refuse summary judgment merely on the ground that a majority of members might yet decide that it was not in the interests of the union that the two defendants should be compelled to make restitution, because members could convene a meeting and pass the necessary resolution themselves, and that the court should not, in effect, circumvent the union's rules.

Those were powerful arguments, and in proceedings against a company and its directors, who albeit innocently had misapplied moneys, they would be unanswerable. However the circumstances of the present case were wholly unprecedented.

When a ballot was held on whether the members should go on strike the resolution in favour was defeated, albeit by a very small majority. Nonetheless when the NUM and the Derbyshire union called its members to go on strike, the call, although in contravention and indeed flagrant breach of the rules of the Derbyshire union, was obeyed by 85 per cent of members.

Even now, so his Lordship understood, over 60 per cent were on strike. The court could not speculate why, having voted against a strike they had obeyed the call, whether it was due to loyalty to the leaders of the NUM, or to the picketing and violence that had ensued.

It was not in dispute that the payments in question were made in the honest belief that the Derbyshire union had power to make them. His Lordship did not think it would be safe to rule out the possibility that a majority could properly and lawfully take the view that it would not be in the union's interests to enforce restitution.

The amount that could be recovered was likely to be insignificant in contrast to the large sum at issue. Enforcement of a judgment might make it more difficult to heal the wounds that would have to be healed when the dispute was over.

The possibility could not be ruled out that some machinery could be found whereby the wishes of those who did not wish the defendants to be made personally liable could be met, following a change of rules, out of future subscriptions. It would not be right in those circumstances to order summary judgment.

It would be said that hard cases made bad law. His Lordship's reply was that hard cases sometimes made good law because that might compel re-examination of principles which might be widely felt to be unfair.

The boundary between ratifying a misapplication of union funds and resolving to take no action to recover funds innocently misapplied might not be easy to draw in the case of a union and that aspect of the case might require further consideration. It followed from what had been said that the plaintiffs were entitled to an injunction to restrain further misapplications of the union's funds, but it need not be made permanent until trial.

The plaintiffs were entitled to an injunction irrespective of the balance of convenience; they were plainly entitled to prevent the union's funds being further dissipated.

It was open to the union to hold a fresh ballot on whether the strike should continue; if the majority were in favour money could be used in furtherance of it to the extent allowed by the rules.

Solicitors: Shacklocks, Mansfield; Mathers, Chesterfield.

Jurisdiction for torts committed on board ship

The Forum Craftsman

Although the jurisdiction in which a tort had been committed was prima facie the natural forum for the determination of the dispute, that assumption was easily displaced in cases where the tort had not been committed on dry land, and where, in particular, a tort had been committed by a member of a crew on board a ship which, although still moored in the territorial waters of a foreign jurisdiction was about to leave those waters and neither the member of the crew nor the ship had any connection with that foreign jurisdiction.

Lord Justice Ackner, sitting in the Court of Appeal with Lord Justice Browne-Wilkinson and Sir John Megaw, so observed on December 20, giving the reserved judgment of the court which dismissed an appeal by the Panamanian shipowners of the Forum Craftsman from the decision of Mr Justice Sheen who on March 22, 1984, refused to stay an action *in rem* in the Admiralty Court brought against the shipowners by the Angolan owners of cargo damaged while laden on board the ship, manned by a Greek crew, while it was moored in Yokohama, Japan. The appellants had argued, *inter alia*, that Japan was the natural forum for the jurisdiction of the dispute.

Contract test to establish a redundancy

Pink v White and Another

Where an industrial tribunal had to consider whether an employee had been dismissed for redundancy within the terms of section 81(2)(b) of the Employment Protection (Consolidation) Act 1978, the correct test in considering whether work of a particular kind had ceased or diminished was not as to the work which the employee was actually doing at the time of his dismissal but as to the work he was required to perform under his contract of employment.

The Employment Appeal Tribunal (Mr Justice Tudor Evans, Mr T. S. Batho and Mr J. O. N. Vickers) so held in a reserved judgment on December 21 dismissing an appeal by Irvin Roy Pink against the decision of a tribunal sitting at Bedford on November 14, 1983, which dismissed his appeal of unfair dismissal.

MR JUSTICE TUDOR EVANS said that the Court of Appeal in *Nelson v BBC* ([1977] ICR 649) applied the "contract test" and the tribunal was not in error in applying that test. Decline in the employer's business necessitated reduction in the relevant section of the workforce and there was no error in the tribunal's reasoning or conclusion that the appellant was rightly selected for dismissal for redundancy.



also on page 11

هكذا من الاصل

Saturday

Television and radio programmes
Summaries: Peter Dear, Peter Davalle

Sunday

SATURDAY

BBC 1

8.30 The Perishers (r). 8.35 The Littlest Hobo in Portrait of Danger (r). 9.00 Saturday SuperStore managed by Mike Read. A review of the series' highlights plus, at 9.05 The Raccoons and the Lost Star and 10.15 Spiderman.
10.45 Take Two presented by Josephine Buchan includes discussions on The Tripods and Box of Delights and letters about Bob's Full House, Get Set Go!, The Lenny Henry Show, Hotline and Hartbeat.
11.25 The Kids from Fame in Concert before a capacity audience at Santa Monica, California. 12.12 Weather.
12.15 Grandstand introduced by Desmond Lynam. The line-up is: 12.20 Football focus with Bob Wilson; 12.50 News; 12.55, 1.25, 1.55, and 2.25 Racing from Newbury; 1.10 Sports Round-up; 1.30, 2.10, and 2.40 Basketball from Crystal Palace: The Philips World Invitational Championships quarter-finals; 3.30 and 3.55 Rugby League: a semi-final of the John Player Special competition; 3.50 Half-times; 4.40 Results.
5.05 News with Jan Leeming. 5.15 Sport/Regional news.
5.20 Jim'll Fix It. The first of a new series and Jimmy Savile arranges for some lucky people to dance with Wayne Sleep; burn a mountain of pound notes; receive a Maori greeting; to sing with Status Quo; to become a 'city gent'.
5.55 Film: The Towering Inferno (1974) starring Steve McQueen, Paul Newman, William Holden and Faye Dunaway. Disaster as a newly built, 138 storey high, glass sided San Francisco hotel, is engulfed in fire as dignitaries are assembled for the opening celebrations. Directed by John Guillermin (Ceefax).
8.35 Dynasty. Adam confesses that it is he who was responsible for attempting to poison Jeff: and Peter de Vilbis notifies the police of the kidnap of the thoroughbred horse when two million dollars ransom money has been paid and the horse returned (Ceefax).
9.25 News and sport.
9.40 Come on Down! Barry Norman casts an acerbic eye over the gamut of American television game shows and tries to analyse why people are fool enough to enter (Ceefax).
10.30 Match of the Day introduced by Jimmy Hill. Highlights from two of this afternoon's First Division games.
11.20 Diced Carrott. Highlights from the 1983 award winning series, Carrott's Lib, starring Jasper Carrott.
12.00 Film: High Noon* (1952) starring Gary Cooper and Grace Kelly. Classic western which won for Cooper an Oscar for his portrayal of a town marshal whose wedding celebrations are interrupted by the arrival of an old adversary. When the crunch comes and it is time for him to uphold the law he discovers that his fellow townspeople do not have the stomach to give him help. Directed by Fred Zinnemann.
1.25 Weather.

TV-am

6.25 Good Morning Britain presented by Henry Kelly. News at 6.25, 7.00 and 8.00; Saturday Call, discussing pets, at 8.30; cooking with Rustie Lee at 8.15. The guests of the day are Edna Healey, Nigel Rees, Claire Rayner and two members of the House of Lords.
9.30 The Wide Awake Club for young people.

ITV/LONDON

9.25 The Smurfs. 9.35 Film: The Legend of the Lone Ranger (1981) starring Klinton Spilsbury and Michael Horse as the Lone Ranger and Tonto in this up-dated version of the cowboy series. Directed by William A. Fraker.
11.15 Magnum. A helicopter carrying the Hawaii detective to his Christmas holiday destination develops engine trouble.
12.15 World of Sport introduced by Dickie Davies. The line-up is: 12.20, 2.00, and 2.50 Darts: The Dry Blackthorn Cider British Open from the Rainbow Suite, Kensington; 12.45 News; 12.50 On the Ball with Ian St John and Jimmy Greaves 1.15, 1.45 and 2.15 Racing from Ayr; 1.30 Motor Racing from Wimbledon Stadium; 2.30 Hot Rod Racing: the Facey Leisure Winternational Gold Cup from Wimbledon Stadium; 3.45 Football half-time and reports; 4.00 Wrestling: two bouts from Bury; 4.45 Results.
5.00 News.
5.05 Pop Goes New Year. The top names in pop music in performance including Culture Club, Eurythmics, Limahl, Style Council and Tracey Ullman (r).
5.35 The Grumbleweeds Radio Show. Fast moving series of comedy sketches starring a talented quintet of lunatics.
6.05 The A-Team. The battling quartet are faced with trying to track-down A-Team lookalikes who are forcing a Wild West Show owner to sell out (Oracle).
7.00 Russ Abbot's Scottish Madhouse. Fun and games with the comedian and his guests, among them, Michael Barrymore, Les Dennis and Dustin Gee, Bella Emberg and Susie Blake (r) (Oracle).
7.45 The Price is Right. The first of a new series of the game show (Oracle).
8.45 Tarby and New Year Friends. Jimmy Tarbuck with guests Michael Aspel, Cilla Black, Foster Brooks, Gloria Hunniford, Michael Parkinson and Gary Wilmot.
9.45 News.
10.00 The Very Beast of Spitting Image. Highlights from the topical comedy series.
11.00 Duran Duran – Blue Silver. A documentary following the pop group's tour of the United States earlier this year.
12.00 London news headlines followed by The Jackson Route. Part two of the three-part drama series about two teams of mountaineers, rivals in the race to be first to scale a supposedly unclimbable mountain.
12.50 Closedown.

Wayne Eagling as Romeo and Alessandra Ferri as Juliet in the Royal Ballet production of Kenneth MacMillan's ballet Romeo and Juliet (BBC 2, 5.55 pm)

BBC 2

9.00 Ceefax.
3.15 Film: Shoulder Arms* (1918) starring Charlie Chaplin as a raw recruit in the First World War who dreams of the perils and of his bravery when he arrives at the front; followed by The Pilgrim (1923), also starring Charlie Chaplin, this time as an escaped prisoner who assumes the character of a man of the cloth and leads an hilarious religious life for a few hours. Both films written and directed by Charlie Chaplin.
4.35 Film: Bearheart of the Northwest (1976) starring Denver Pyle, Marshall Reed, Joey Young and Dana Dillaway. Western yarn about a family who take over a trading post in Oregon. When the daughter is saved from the attentions of a bear by a supposed wild dog it is then the family hear the story of the 'Bearheart' of the Northwest. Directed by Rand Brooks.
5.55 The Saturday Alternative: The Royal Ballet in Romeo and Juliet. The Kenneth MacMillan production of Sergei Prokofiev's version of Shakespeare's play recorded at the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden. Starring Alessandra Ferri and Wayne Eagling as the two lovers, with the Orchestra of the Royal Opera House, conducted by Ashley Lawrence. Introduced by Richard Baker.
8.10 Saturday Review of 1984, presented by Russell Davies. Joan Bakewell, Colin MacCabe and A. N. Wilson discuss and comment on the best and the worst of the year's arts and the media.
9.25 Fanny and Alexander. The third and final part of Ingmar Bergman's story of middle class life in Sweden at the turn of the century. Fanny and Alexander have now moved in with their mother and step-father where they have difficulty in adapting to their step-father's stern rule which even their mother, originally blinded by love for her new husband, finds difficulty in accepting.
11.45 Film: The Mummy (1959) starring Peter Cushing and Christopher Lee. The classic tale of a reactivated Egyptian mummy who wreaks revenge on those who desecrated his tomb. Directed by Terence Fisher. Ends at 1.15.

CHANNEL 4

12.30 Film: The Tales of Beatrix Potter (1971). A ballet version of the famous children's stories, choreographed by Sir Frederick Ashton and danced by members of the Royal Ballet led by Ashton himself as Mrs Tiggy-Winkle.
2.10 The Jolson Story (1946) starring Larry Parkes. A romanticised biography of the American entertainer. Directed by Alfred E. Green.
4.35 Citizen 2000. The second of four programmes following the progress of children born in 1982 features Rachael, a handicapped child suffering from cerebral palsey. The programme, as well as illustrating how Rachael's family has adapted to the stresses and challenges of having a disabled child, also assesses her chances in life in the fields of education, social integration and employment, and of how Rachael will cope when older with society's attitude to the disabled.
5.05 Brookside (r).
6.00 News summary and weather.
6.05 The Life and Adventures of Nicholas Nickleby. A two-part repeat of the Royal Shakespeare Company's award-winning production of the nine-hour stage version of Dickens's famous novel which was first shown on this channel's opening month in four weekly parts. Directed by Trevor Nunn and John Caird, the production starred Roger Rees in the title role with Emily Richard as his sister, Kate. In this opening half Nicholas with his mother and sister are at the mercy of the austere Ralph Nickleby, following the death of his father. Adapted from Dickens's novel by David Elgar with lyrics by Stephen Oliver. Part two tomorrow night at 6.00.
10.00 Film: Mr Smith Goes to Washington* (1939) starring James Stewart as the seemingly ineffectual Jefferson Smith, a local do-gooder and organiser of the local Boy Ranger club. When the state senator dies, the big political chief demands that his choice should be the next senator. The people object and Jefferson Smith's name is put forward as a compromise candidate. Directed by Frank Capra.
12.25 Closedown.

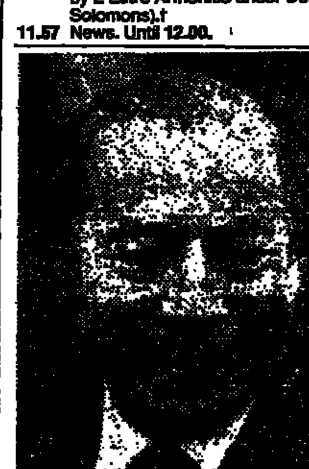
Radio 4

On long wave. † stereo on VHF.

5.55 Shipping. 6.00 News briefing. 6.10 Prelude. A musical start to your weekend.
6.30 News; Farming Today. 6.50 Prayer for the Day. 6.55 Weather; Travel.
7.00 News. 7.10 Today's Papers.
7.15 On Your Farm. 7.45 In Perspective. 7.50 Down to Earth. Gardening jobs. 7.55 Weather; Travel.
8.00 News. 8.10 Today's Papers.
8.15 The Dracula Tour by Robert Westall. The reader is Brenda Blethyn (r).
8.30 Smash of the Day. The Hitch-Hiker's Guide to the Galaxy – Fit the Fifth.
9.00 News.
9.05 The Countryside in Winter. With Wynford Vaughan-Thomas and Bill Oddie, who reveals that there is another side (an ornithological one) to his nature.
9.50 The Collie and the Lancaster. Andrew Joynes on his childhood in Canada.
10.00 Pick of the Year. With Margaret Howard.
11.00 News; Travel: Pride and Prejudice by Jane Austen (last of six parts).
12.00 News; Money Box. With Louise Botting.
12.27 News Quiz of the Year (Part 2): With Simon Hoggart, Alan Coren, John Wells, Ann Leslie, Gillian Reynolds, Oliver Pritchett and David Taylor. 12.55 Weather.
1.00 News.
1.10 Any Sporting Questions 1984. With a panel including Sebastian Coe and Jenny Pitman. 1.55 Shipping Forecast.
2.00 News; The Afternoon Play: Daughters of the Late Colonel by Katherine Mansfield. With Anna Cropper and Elizabeth Bell(r).
3.00 News; My Music. Seasonal edition.
3.30 Rats! A rat's-eye-view of events 750 years ago in Hamelin town.
4.15 The Oldest New Year. Roger Worsley looks at some time-honoured celebrations in one small corner of Wales where New Year is celebrated 12 days later than January 1.
4.40 The Thunder and Lightning Man. A profile of Andrew Crosse (1784-1855), a pioneer electrician, and squire of Fyne Court, Somerset.
5.00 News; Travel.
5.05 La Belle Irlandaise. Helen Madden tells the story of Harriet Smithson Berlioz, the Irish actress. Susie Kelly plays Harriet Smithson, and Des McAleer plays Berlioz (r).
5.35 Asterix in Britain (6). 5.50 Shipping. 5.55 Weather; Travel.
6.00 News, Sports Round-up.
6.30 Not a Penny More, Not a Penny Less by Jeffrey Archer (6).†
7.00 The Way the Normans Rode. Wynford Vaughan-Thomas follows one of the routes by which the Normans penetrated and held South Wales (Crickhowell to Pembroke).
7.45 Letter from Madras. Mark Tully reports from the land of the Tamils.
8.00 Saturday-Night Theatre. The Maltese Falcon by Dashiell Hammet. With Tom Wilkinson as Sam Spade and Jane Lapotaire as Brigid.†
10.00 News.
10.15 You the Jury. The motion: This Government is not actively fighting the present level of uemployment. John Prescott MP proposes the motion, and Nicholas Lyell QC, MP, opposes it. In the chair: Dick Taverne.
11.00 Evening Service.†
11.15 Great Liners. The Blue Riband. With Robin Worman.
11.30 Son of Cliché.†
12.00 News; Weather.
12.15 Tales from a Palm Court. Ian Carmichael reads from Ronnie Knox-Mawer's book. 12.33 Shipping.
VHF (available in England and S Wales). Radio 4 vhf as above except: 5.55-6.00am Weather; Travel. 1.55-2.00pm Programme News. 5.50-5.55 Programme News.

Radio 3

6.55 Weather. 7.00 News.
7.05 Aubade: Pleyel's Sinfonia Concertante in B flat; Archduke Rudolf of Austria's Trio; Beethoven's Piano Sonata Op 14 No 2; Mozart's Cosi dunque tradisci, K 432; Danzi's Horn Sonata in E flat Op 28; Boccherini's Cello Concerto in B flat.† 9.00 News.
9.05 Record Review: A look back at 1984, by this excellent programme's team of contributors.†
10.15 Stereo Release: Mozart's Piano Concerto No 6; Monteverdi's Questi vaghi concenti (Madrigals, Book 5); Schubert's Im Abendrot, D 799; Handel's Movements from the Water Music.†
11.15 Scottish National Orchestra: with Boris Berman (piano). Prokofiev's Romeo and Juliet Suite No 1; Stravinsky's Concerto for piano, wind, timpani and double-brass. Dvorak's Slavonic dances Op 46.† 1.00 News.
1.05 Ravel and Piston: Ravel's String Quartet in F; Piston's Quintet for piano and strings.†
2.00 Verdi's Operas: La traviata. Sung in Italian. With Scotto, Suso Mariategui, Alfredo Kraus and Renato Bruson. Muti conducts the Philharmonic Orchestra. Interval at 2.35. Acts 2 and 3 at 2.40.†
4.25 Dorian Wind Quintet in New York: Milhaud's suite: La cheminée du roi René; Richard Rodney Bennett's Concerto for wind quintet.†
5.00 Jazz Record Requests: with Peter Clayton.†
5.45 Critics' Choice: a review of 1984, with Richard Cork in the chair, and many of this programme's regular contributors.
6.45 The Octave of the Nativity: Reconstruction of the Procession and Mass of St Thomas as performed in Canterbury Cathedral in 1420.†
7.45 A Revolution in Music: Maurice Cranston's history about Rousseau, Rameau and the Querelle des Bouffons, of 1752.†
8.40 BBC Philharmonic in Italy: with Joaquin Achucarro (piano). Part 1. Bax's Symphonic Poem Tintagel; Ravel's Piano Concerto in D for left hand.†
9.20 Poetry of Robert Southwell: read by Ronald Pickup. The narrator: Patric Dickinson.
9.40 Concert (part two): Rachmaninov's Symphony No 2.†
10.45 The Leg: Philip Madoc reads R H Bowden's short story.
11.00 Haydn: String Quartet in F minor Op 55 No 2 (played by the Solomon Quartet); Missa Brevis in F; Symphony No 2 in C played by L'Estro Armonico under Derek Solomons).†
11.57 News. Until 12.00.


Joe Loss: 50 broadcasting years (Radio 2, 7.30pm)

Radio 2

4.00 Lorri Newman.† 6.00 George Ferguson † including 7.50 Racing. 8.05 David Jacobs.† 10.00 Sounds of the60s.† 11.00 Album Time.† 11.02 Sports Desk. 1.00pm Radio Active: 'Martin Chizzlenutt' by Charles Dickens? (r). 1.30 Sport on 2. Includes Racing from Newbury 1.30, 2.00 and 5.00 Classified Football Results. 5.20 Rugby round-up/cricket. 5.25 Racing round-up. 5.30 Knockke Cup 1984. Semi-finals and Final. 6.00 Folk on 2. (Packie Byrne and Brass Monkey). 7.00 Beat the Record. 7.30 Joe Loss – In the Mood. A celebration of 50 years in broadcasting.† 8.30 Roger Whittaker in Concert.† 9.30 Big Band Special.† 10.02 Sports Desk. 10.05 Ken Bruce.† 12.05 Night Owls.† 1.00 Nightride.† 3.00-4.00 Stuart Hall's Year of Sport.†

Radio 1

5.55am Radio 1 Chip Shop Basicode 2 + Computer Program. 6.00 Mark Page including the Radio 1 Chip Shop. 8.00 Peter Powell. 10.00 Dave Lee Travis. 1.00pm Lenny Henry. This week: 1985. 2.00 Paul Gambaccini.† 4.00 Saturday Live.† 6.30 In Concert featuring Sade. † 7.30 Phil Kennedy including sessions from Floy Joy and Robin George. 9.30-12.00am Dixie Peach. VHF Radios 1 & 2: 4.00am With Radio 2. 1.00pm With Radio 1. 7.30-4.00am With Radio 2.

WORLD SERVICE

6.00am Newsdesk. 7.00 World News. 7.09 Twenty Four Hours. 7.30 From The Weeklies. 7.45 Network UK. 8.00 World News. 8.09 Reflections. 8.15 A Jolly Good Show. 9.00 World News. 9.09 Review of the British Press. 9.15 The World Today. 9.30 Financial News. 9.40 Look Ahead. 9.45 Handel in London. 10.00 News Summary. 10.01 That's Trad. 10.15 Letter From America. 10.30 People and Politics. 11.00 World News. 11.09 News About Britain. 11.15 About Britain. 12.00 Radio Newsreel. 12.15 Anything Goes. 12.45 Sports Roundup. 1.00 World News. 1.09 Twenty Four Hours. 1.30 Network UK. 1.45 Country Music Profile. 2.00 News Summary. 2.01 Music Now. 2.30 Album Time. 3.00 Radio Newsreel. 3.15 Saturday Special. 4.00 World News. 4.09 Commentary. 4.15 Saturday Special. 5.00 News Summary. 5.01 Saturday Special. 8.00 World News. 8.15 What's New. 8.30 People And Politics. 10.00 World News. 10.09 From Our Own Correspondent. 10.30 New Ideas. 10.40 Reflections. 10.45 Sports Roundup. 11.00 World News. 11.09 Commentary. 11.15 Letterbox. 11.30 Meridian. 12.00 World News. 12.09 News About Britain. 12.15 Radio Newsreel. 12.30 Play of the Week: Season's Greetings. 2.00 World News. 2.09 Review of the British Press. 2.15 Sacbuts And Sinfonias. 2.30 Sports Review. 3.00 World News. 3.09 News About Britain. 3.15 From Our Own Correspondent. 3.30 Jazz Score. 4.00 Newsdesk. 4.30 Juke Box Dury. 5.45 Letter From America. (All times in GMT)

FREQUENCIES: Radio 1: 1053kHz/285m; 1089kHz/275m; Radio 2: 693kHz/433m; 909kHz/330m; Radio 3: 1215kHz/247m: VHF -90-92.5; Radio 4: 200kHz 1500m: VHF -92-95; LBC 1152kHz/261m; VHF 97.3; Capital: 1548kHz/194m: VHF 95.8; BBC Radio London 1458kHz/206m: VHF 94.9; World Service MF 648kHz/463m.

BBC 1 Wales: 5.15-5.20pm Sports news. 1.25-1.30am Weather. Scotland: 5.15-5.20pm Scoreboard. 9.40-10.20 The Big Yin: (Billy Connolly). 10.20-11.20 Sportscene. Northern Ireland: 4.55-5.05pm Northern Ireland results (put-out from Grandstand). 5.15-5.20 Northern Ireland news. 1.25-1.30am Northern Ireland news headlines. England: 5.15-5.20pm London – Sport. South West (Plymouth) – Spotlight sport and news. All other English regions – sport/regional news.

S4C As London except: 1.40am Golf Highlights of the Year. 2.20 Realms of Darkness. 3.20 Hiawatha. 4.50 Captain Stirrick. Musical set in Smithfield. 6.30 Amateur Naturalist of the Year. 7.30 Newyddion. 7.45 Sion a Sian. 8.15 Noson Lawen. 9.15 Y Maes Chwarae. 10.15 Barron Knights. 11.15 Film: Tall Target (Dick Powell). 12.40 Closedown.

REGIONAL TELEVISION VARIATIONS

GRANADA As London except: 9.25am-9.35 Cartoon. 12.00 midnight Film: Otley (Tom Courtenay). A born loser becomes involved in the dangerous world of international espionage. 1.40am Closedown.

YORKSHIRE As London except: 12.00 midnight Late Night Drama: David. Accident changes a young man's life. 12.30am Closedown.

ULSTER As London except: 4.55pm-5.00 Ulster Sports Results. 12.00 midnight The Protectors. 12.25am News at Bedtime, Closedown.

GRAMPIAN As London except: 12.00 midnight Jazz Special. 12.25am Reflections, Closedown.

ANGLIA As London except: 9.25am Cartoon. 9.30-11.15 Lone Ranger. 12.00 Portrait of a Legend: Frankie Valli. 12.30am At the End of the Day, Closedown.

CENTRAL As London except: 12.00 midnight Closedown.

SCOTTISH As London except: 12.00midnight Late call. 12.05am Closedown.

HTV WEST As London except: 12.00 midnight Closedown.
HTV WALES: No variation.

TSW As London except: 12.00 midnight Short Story Theatre. 12.30am Postscript. 12.36 Closedown.

TYNE TEES As London except: 9.25 Morning Glory. 9.30 Fraggle Rock. 10.00-12.15pm Film: Jumbo (Doris Day). 5.05-6.05 Road to LA: Steve Cram. 12.00 The Master. 12.30am Treasury of the Holy Spirit, Closedown.

CHANNEL As London except: 12.00 Short Story Theatre. 12.30am Weather and Closedown.

TVS As London except: 12.00midnight Company. Followed by Closedown.

BORDER As London except: 12.00 midnight Closedown.

WHAT THE SYMBOLS MEAN
† Stereo. ★ Black and white. (r) Repeat

SUNDAY

BBC 1

9.00 The Flumps. A See-Saw programme for the very young (r) 9.15 'Olympic' Challenge. Cliff Morgan has written and presents this story of the 1984 International Games for the Disabled (r).
10.00 Asian Magazine includes a celebration of Guru Govind Singh's birthday.
10.30 Bonanza. Ben Cartwright is caught between two past friends – one a sheriff turned bounty hunter, the other a man with a price on his head (r)
11.20 Morning Worship from the Old Parish Church, Peebles. 12.05 See Hear! Magazine programme for the hard-of-hearing. 12.30 Wait Till Your Father Gets Home. A cartoon series made by Hanna-Barbera. 12.55 Cartoon. Tom and Jerry in Slicked-up Pup.
1.00 News headlines. 1.05 Wildlife on One: Out in the Cold. A documentary about animals that survive comfortably in extreme cold (r). 1.30 The Rock Gospel Show from America. The top American performers in action.
2.05 Film: Zulu (1963) starring Michael Caine, Stanley Baker and Jack Hawkins. Excellent drama about the handful of men defending an army garrison at Rorke's Drift against 4,000 Zulus. Directed by Cy Endfield.
4.15 HRH The Prince of Wales. A repeat of the Jackanory programme in which The Prince of Wales reads The Old Man of Lochnagar (Ceefax).
4.35 Holiday. Cliff Michelmore returns with a new series of the invaluable and interesting programme testing variously-priced holidays at home and abroad, beginning with a Concorde flight to the Caribbean.
5.10 Play: This Office Life, by Keith Waterhouse. Dinsdale Landen and Jenny Agutter star in this comedy about a man who is completely satisfied with his life as a filing clerk.
6.30 News with Jan Leeming.
6.40 Songs of Praise from St Paul's Church, Birmingham (Ceefax).
7.15 Last of the Summer Wine. Wesley Pedgen solicits the help of the retired trio, but with what he refuses to say.
7.45 Big Deal. The final episode of the series and Robby has salted away enough money with which to satisfy the tax man. But then he learns of a big American gambler who is looking for some action (Ceefax).
8.55 Film: Kramer v Kramer (1979) starring Dustin Hoffman and Meryl Streep. The first showing on British television for this Oscar-winning drama about a father's fight for the custody of his son after his wife demands his return 15 months after she walked out on them both. Directed by Robert Penton (Ceefax).
10.20 News with Jan Leeming.
10.35 The Touch. A documentary about deaf/blind people which challenges those with both faculties to reassess victims of this dual handicap (subtitled).
11.25 It's Max Boyce. The Welsh comedian with guests Stephanie Lawrence and the Richard Williams Junior Singers.
11.55 Golf: The One Club Challenge for the Epson Trophy. Lee Trevino and Severiano Ballesteros play nine holes of the Old Course at St Andrews.
12.45 Weather.

TV-am

6.55 Good Morning Britain presented by David Frost. News at 7.00, 8.00 and 9..00; a review of the newspapers by Derek Jameson at 8.50; David Frost's guests, who also include Brian Walden, Joanna Lumley and Nigel Dempster, look back at the events of 1984 from 9.02.

ITV/LONDON

9.25 Disney at Christmas. Excerpts from the Jungle Book. 9.30 Terrahawks.
10.00 Morning Worship from the Above Bar Church, Southampton. 11.00 Getting On spotlights two exponents of Black Country humour – Harry Harrison and Dolly Allen.
11.30 Film: The Great Muppet Caper (1981) starring Diana Rigg and Charles Grodin. Kermit and Fozzie, two investgative reporters head for London following a jewel robbery. A host of international stars in cameo roles include Peter Ustinov, Peter Falk, Robert Morley and John Clees. Directed by by Jim Henson.
1.15 The Big Match. Brian Moore intoduces highlights from two of yesterday's First Division games.
2.00 One More River. The first of a two-part programme in which Edna Healey traces the story of mill girl turned missionary, Mary Slessor, who left Dundee to go to where, in 1876, was a centre for the slave trade – Calabar, on the east coast of Africa. Part two next week.
2.30 London news headlines followed by The Smurfs.
2.45 Film: Star Wars (1977) starring Mark Hamill and Harrison Ford. Spectacular science fiction adventure about a young man's attempts to free the Princess Leia Organa and retrieve plans for a deadly weapon from the evil Grand Moff Tarkin and his evil accomplice, Darth Vader. Directed by George Lucas.
5.00 Duran Duran – As the Lights Go Down. A concert, featuring 12 numbers, performed before an audience of 60,000 at the Oakland Coliseum, California.
6.00 Bullseye. Darts and general knowledge game.
6.30 News.
6.40 Highway. Sir Harry Secombe is in Edinburgh.
7.15 Film: The Last Days of Pompeii (1984) Part one of a made-for-television version of the story of the decadent city that was destroyed by the eruption of Vesuvius. Starring Ned Beatty, Brian Blessed and Ernest Borgnine. A strong supporting cast includes Laurence Olivier, Siobhan McKenna, Franco Nero and Anthony Quayle.
9.45 News.
10.00 Weekend in Wallop. A documentary, not about a beer festival, but about the First Nether Wallop International Arts Festival which was directed by Sunday Times journalist, Stephen Pile. The programme follows the three days of a peculiarly English event (Oracle).
12.00 London news headlines followed by The Jackson Route. The third and final part of the drama about two teams of rival mountaineers, both striving to be the first to climb a reputedly unscaleable mountain.
12.50 Night Thoughts.

Roger Rees as Nicholas and David Threlfall as Smike in the second part of the RSC production of of Nicholas Nickleby (Channel 4, 6.00 pm)

BBC 2

9.00 Ceefax.
1.50 Film: City Lights* (1931) starring Charlie Chaplin as The Tramp in a romantic comedy about a blind girl, an eccentric millionaire and the tramp Written and directed by Charlie Chaplin.
3.15 Rugby Special. Highlights from yesterday's game between Romania and the Northern Division.
4.00 One Man and his Dog. Heat two of the BBC Television Sheepdog Championship (r).
4.45 Geoffrey Smith's World of Flowers. Clematis (r).
5.10 Film: The Wizard of Oz (1939) (colour and black and white). Classic children's story about Dorothy who discovers all manner of weird and wonderful characters at the end of the yellow brick road in the land of Oz. Directed by Victor Fleming.
6.50 Cartoon. Monkey Fishes the Moon.
7.00 Ski Sunday. David Vine introduces coverage of the Four Hills Championship from Oberstdorf, West Germany. The commentator is Ron Pickering.
7.35 News with Jan Leeming.
7.45 The Natural World: Secret Weapons. An award-winning documentary about the work of Professor Tom Eisner of Cornell University on how insects protect themselves by chemical means. Using the most advanced camera technology we are able to see, among other things, the bombardier beetle which fires a toxic chemical at boiling point with uncanny accuracy; and another beetle that can withstand a pull 300 times its own weight (r).
8.35 The Everly Brothers Reunion Concert. An Arena special recorded at the Royal Albert Hall in September 1983 when Don and Phil Everly performed together for the first time in a decade (r).
9.45 The Times at 200. The story of this newspaper's 200-year history from the time when it was the Daily Universal Register to the present day under the ownership of Rupert Murdoch. Hugo Young, a former deputy editor of the Sunday Times, casts a critical and expert eye over the reputation and standing of the newspaper.
10.35 Film: The Driver (1978) starring Ryan O'Neal and Bruce Dern. Detective drama about a determined sleuth on the trail of an old adversary – a getaway driver. Directed by Walter Hill. Ends at 12.50.

CHANNEL 4

1.00 Irish Angle. Earlier this year Fianna Fail TD Jim Tunney spent three days in the Protestant-dominated area of North Down as the guest of Official Unionist brothers Chris and Michael Magimpsey. This afternoon's programme follows the progress of a modern-day version of a Daniel in the Lion's den story.
1.30 Refugees of Faith. Robert Kee is the narrator of this documentary about the highest concentration of refugees in the world – the three million Afghans who have fled across their border to find sanctuary from the occupying Russian forces in Pakistan. Filmed in Baluchistan and the North-West frontier region of Pakistan, the documentary examines the plight of these refugees and looks at other serious problems both political and ecological, that now face Pakistan.
2.00 Film: Jolson Sings Again* (1949) starring Larry Parks A sequel to the acclaimed Jolson Story which was shown yesterday on this channel, carrying on from where that one left off. This film shows Jolson entertaining the troops during the Second World War, collapsing through overwork and then marrying a nurse (Barbara Hale). Directed by Henri Levin.
3.45 The Heart Has Its Reasons. A profile of the French-Canadian Jean Vanier, founder of L'Arche, an ecumenical community for the mentally handicapped, which has grown from humble beginnings in Paris in 1964 to world-wide representation.
4.45 News summary and weather followed by American Football. Nicky Horn and John Smith with highlights from two of the four Divisional Play-off games.
6.00 The Life and Adventures of Nicholas Nickleby. Part two of the repeat showing of the award winning adaptation of Charles Dickens' novel, first shown in four parts during the first month of this channel's existence.
10.45 Film: Phantom of the Opera (1943) starring Claude Rains as the violinist with Paris Opera who has a composition rejected by the publishers only to hear it being played elsewhere. Convinced it has been stolen he wreaks revenge on the publisher and then goes to live in the sewers beneath the Opera House beginning a reign of terror and murder. Directed by Arthur Lubin.
12.30 Closedown.

Radio 4

On long wave. † stereo as VHF.

5.55 Shipping. 6.00 News Briefing. 6.10 Prelude.† 6.30 News; Morning Has Broken. 6.55 Weather; Travel.
7.00 News. 7.10 Sunday Papers. 7.15 Apna Hi Ghar Samajhive. 7.45 Bells. 7.50 Tuning Over New Leaves. 7.55 Weather; Travel.
8.00 News. 8.10 Sunday Papers. 8.15 Sunday. 8.50 Week's Good Cause: The Prison Reform Trust (an appeal by Sir Monty Finniston). 8.55 Weather; Travel.
9.00 News. 9.10 Sunday Papers.
9.15 Letter From America by Alistair Cooke.
9.30 Morning Service from St. Augustine's Parish Church, Londonderry.
10.15 The Archers. Omnibus edition.
11.15 News Review of the Year. With Michael Vestey.
12.00 News; Smash of the Day. 'Steptoe and Son' (Wilfred Brambell and Harry H. Corbett) (r).
12.30 Mel Brooks Takes The Michael. Michael Billington talks to the comedy actor and film director. 12.55 Weather.
1.00 The World This Weekend: News. 1.55 Shipping.
2.00 News; Gardeners' Question Time.
2.30 The Afternoon Play: 'The Killing of Mr. Toad' by David Gooderson, with Edward Hardwicke as Kenneth Grahame and Barbara Jefford as Elspeth Grahame. The story of the private life of the man who wrote The Wind in the Willows.
4.00 News; Talking About Antiques. (Arthur Negus and Bernard Price).
4.30 The Living World. Peter France travels north of the border.
5.00 News; Travel.
5.05 The Year Ahead. A Radio News special in which BBC news correspondents try to predict the main issues of the year ahead. 5.50 Shipping. 5.55 Weather.
6.00 News.
6.15 Turning the Devil's Stone. Phil Smith looks at ancient British customs.
6.30 Not A Penny More, Not A Penny Less. The last episode of Jeffrey Archer's dramatized novel.†
7.00 We Always Prosecute. Libby Purves investigates the subject of shoplifting.
7.35 A Kindly People. Ann Urquhart in conversation with Maurice Lindsay, Teacher and Provost of Stornoway.
8.00 Pick of the Year. With Margaret Howard.†(r).
9.00 News; Masters' India. John Masters' saga of the Savage family spanning the years 1825-1946. Book Four: 'Bhowani Junction' (1).
10.00 News.
10.15 Weather-Wise. Anthony Smith explores the obstacles in the path of perfect weather forecasting.
11.00 Mindful of the Love. Canon Michael Austin with a reflection on the theme of 'Love Among Us'.
11.15 The Countryside in Winter. With Wynford Vaughan-Thomas (r).
12.00 News; Weather.
12.15 Tales from a Palm Court. Ian Carmichael reads from Ronnie Knox-Mawer's book (2).
12.33 Shipping.
VHF (available in England & S. Wale only). Radio 4 vhf as above except: 5.55-6.00am Weather; Travel. 1.55-2.00pm Programme News. 5.50-5.55 Programme News.

Radio 3

6.55 Weather. 7.00 News.
7.05 Baroque Musical Pictures: Recordings of works by Jean-Fery Rebel, Jean-Joseph Mouret, Francesco Usper, Vivaldi, Marc-Antoine Charpentier and others.†
8.00 Brahms Chamber Music: String Quartet in A minor Op 51 No 2; Horn Trio in E flat Op. 40.† 9.00 News.
9.05 Your Concert Choice: Includes Mussorgsky's (arranged Howarth) Pictures from an Exhibition; and Tchaikovsky's (arr Wild) Dance of the Little Swans.†
10.30 The Octave of the Nativity: Reconstruction of the Mass on the Sunday after Christmas, given in the Winter Gardens, Milan, in 1128.†
11.30 BBC Philharmonic in Germany: with Elisabeth Leonskaja (piano). Richard Rodney Bennett's Zodiac; Beethoven's Piano Concerto No 1.†
12.35 Edita Gruberova: soprano recital. With Friedrich Haider (piano). Works by Mozart, Wolf, Brahms and Strauss.†
1.55 L'Europe Galante: Leclair's overture in D major Op 13 No 2; Vivaldi's Violin Concerto in A, RV 353; Telemann's overture in G minor.†
2.45 Kodaly and Mendelssohn: Karoly Botvay (cello) and Piers Lane (piano). Kodaly's Hungarian Rondo, and Sonata Op 4; and Mendelssohn's Cello Sonata Op 58.†
3.45 Dvorak's Requiem: Czech Philharmonic Choir and Orchestra and soloists Benackova, Soukupova, Vodicka and Mikulas.†
5.30 New Premises: Stephen Games's unorthodox arts review.
6.15 BBC Philharmonic's 50th Anniversary: Nicholas Cleobury conducts Giles Swayne's Pentecost Music.†
7.00 The Primrose Path: Peter Barnes's adaptation of the Feydeau comedy Le Bourgeon. With Simon Hewitt, Dilys Laye, Richard Pasco, Gwen Watford, Penelope Wilton and Aubrey Woods (r).†
9.00 Itzak Perlman and Bruno Canino: violin and piano recital. Part 1. Mozart's Sonata in B flat major, K 378; Prokofiev's Sonata in F minor, Op 80.†
9.50 Tell Me What You Want: Denis Lill reads Morris Lurie's short story.
10.05 Recital (part 2). Dvorak's Sonatina in G major Op 100; Kreisler's Praeludium and Allegro after Pugnani; Tambourin chinois, etc.†
10.50 Northern Sinfonia of England: with Martyn Hill (tenor). Lutoslawski's Overture for Strings; Haydn's Symphony No 44; Britten's Nocturne for tenor, seven instruments and string orchestra.†
11.57 News. Until 12.00.

Gwen Watford: The Primrose Path (Radio 3, 7.30pm)

Radio 2

4.00am Lorri Newman.† 6.00 George Ferguson.† 7.30 Paul McDowell says Good Morning Sunday.† 9.00 David Jacobs. 11.00 Desmond Carrington.† 12.30pm The Grumbleweeds. Special guest Joe Gladwin (r). 12.59 Sports Desk. 1.00 David Hamilton Presents Two's Best.† 2.00 Benny Green.† 3.00 Alan Dell.† 4.00 String Sound.† 4.30 Sing Something Simple.† 5.00 Charlie Chester with your Sunday Soapbox 6.02 Sports Desk. 6.30 Sports Quiz 84. 7.00 Vernon and Maryetta Midgley. 7.30 Glamorous Nights. 8.30 Sunday Half-hour (Carols for Christmas). 9.00 Your Hundred Best Tunes. 10.02 Sports Desk. 10.05 Songs from the Shows. 10.45 Eddie Thompson at the piano. 11.00 Sounds of Jazz. 1.00am Nightride.† 3.00-4.00 Two's Best.†

Radio 1

5.55am Radio 1 Chip Shop Basicode 2 + Computer Program. 6.00 Mark Page. 8.00 Peter Powell. 10.00 Steve Wright. 12.30pm Jimmy Savile's 'Old Record' Club. This week 1965 and 1977. 2.30 Adrian Juste. 4.00 Hitsville USA: The Story of Motown. (Part 9). 5.00 Top 40 of 1984 with Richard Skinner.† 7.00 Anne Nightingale.† 9.00 Robbie Vincent.† 11.00 Gary Byrd's Sweet Inspirations.†

SUNDAY'S WORLD SERVICE

6.00 Newsdesk. 7.00 World News. 7.09 Twenty Four Hours. 7.30 From Our Own Correspondent. 7.50 Letter From London. 8.09 Reflections. 8.15 The Pleasure's Yours 9.00 World News. 9.09 Review of the British Press. 9.15 Sports Review. 9.45 Behind The Universe. 10.00 News Summary. 10.01 Short Story. 10.15 Classical Record Review. 10.30 Sunday Service. 11.00 World News. 11.09 News About Britain. 11.15 From Our Own Correspondent. 1.00 World News 1.09 Twenty-Four Hours: 1.30 Nineteen Eighty-Four. 1.45 The Sandi Jones Request Show. 2.00 News Summary. 2.30 Wives And Daughters. 3.00 Radio Newsreel. 3.15 Concert Hall. 4.00 World News. 4.09 Commentary. 4.15 Mastermind – Man or Microchip? 5.00 World News. 5.09 Meridian. 8.00 World News. 8.15 The Pleasure's Yours. 10.00 World News. 10.09 Not So Much A Hobby. 10.25 Words. 10.30 Financial Review. 10.40 Reflections. 10.45 Sports Roundup. 11.00 World News. 11.09 Commentary. 11.15 Letter From America. 11.30 Plato To Nato. 12.00 World News. 12.09 News About Britain. 12.15 Radio Newsreel. 12.30 Religious Service. 1.00 News Summary. 1.01 In the Psychiatrist's Chair. 1.45 The Classical Guitarist. 2.00 World News. 2.09 Review of the British Press 2.15 Good Books. 2.30 Music Now. 3.00 World News 3.09 News About Britain. 3.15 Putting Politics in its Place 3.30 Anything Goes. 4.00 Newsdesk 4.30 Gemini To Jo'Burg 5.45 Recording of the Week. All times in GMT

BBC 1 Wales: 1.30-2.00 Weekend Rugby Union. (Pontypool v Newbridge at Pontypool Park). 12.45-12.50am News of Wales. Scotland: 2.05-3.00pm Sunday Sportscene (CIS Scottish National Indoor Bowling Championships). 3.00-3.30 The Young Approach. (Paisley-born violinist Abigail Young). 3.30-4.15 Star Trek. 12.45-12.50am Scottish news summary. Northern Ireland: 12.45-12.50am Northern Ireland news headlines.

S4C Starts 2.10pm Citizen 2000. 2.40 Chips Comic. 3.05 Lineside Look at Model Railways. 4.05 Henllys Fawr. 4.45 American Fotball. 6.00 We're Gonna Sing. 6.40 Putting up the Pickles. 7.10 Wil Cwac Cwac. 7.15 Newyddion. 7.20 Apel. 7.30 Galw Garl. 8.10 Rhaglen Hywel Gwynfryn. 8.50 Hywel Morgan. 9.30 Dechrau Canu, Ddechrau Canmol. 10.00 Venice in the East. 110.00 Film: National Lampoon's Animal House. Sixties college campus comedy. 12.30am Closedown.

REGIONAL TELEVISION VARIATIONS

SCOTTISH As London except: 10.00am Getting On. 10.30 Glen Michael Cavalcade. 11.15 Film: Great Muppet Caper. 1.00pm-2.00 Scotsport. 12.00 Crann Tora. 12.30am Late Call, Closedown.

GRANADA 9.30am-10.00 Window on the World. 11.00-11.30 Terrahawks. 12.00 midnight That's Hollywood: Entertainers. 12.30am Closedown.

HTV As London except: 12.00 midnight Closedown.

HTV WALES No Variations.

ULSTER As London except: Starts 11.am-11.30 Terrahawks. 12.00 midnight Sports Results. 12.05am News at Bdtime; Closedown.

YORKSHIRE As London except: 9.25am-10.00 Getting On. 11.00-11.30 Terrahawks. 12.00 midnight Late Night Drama. 12.30am Five Minutes: Closedown.

ANGLIA As London except: 2.30-2.45 Cartoon 12.00 midnight Shelley 12.30am Christmas People, Closedown

CHANNEL As London except: 1.11pm-1.15 Good News 12.00 Moviemakers 12.30am Good News, Closedown

BORDER As London except: 12.00 Midnight Closedown.

CENTRAL As London exept: 12 midnight Closedown.

TSW As London except: 9.30am-10.00 Getting On. 11.00 Terrahawks. 11.25-11.30 Look and See. 122.00 midnight Moviemakers. 12.30am Postscript. Closedown.

TVS As London except: 9.25-9.30 Action Line 12.00 midnight Company, Closedown

GRAMPIAN As London except: 10.00am Cartoon 10.15 Cause for Rejoicing 10.45 Getting On 11.15 Film: Great Muppet Caper 1.00pm Scotsport 12.00 midnight Grann Tara 12.30am Reflections, Closedown

TYNE TEES As London except: 9.25am Morning Glory 9.30-10.00 Getting On 11.00-11.30 Terrahawks 12.00 midnight Streets of San Francisco 1.00am Christian Calendar, Closedown

Minister implicated in death of Polish priest

Continued from page 1

Each time he was beaten, Piotrowski threatening after the first attempt, "I will strangle you with my bare hands if you don't keep quiet." In the forest attempt, Piotrowski beat the priest with a 20-in club wrapped in rags.

According to Pekala's testimony, the priest shouted out shortly before his death: "Help, help. Spare my life, you people."

A rope was put around his neck to restrain movement in the boot, and it was this, according to the prosecutor, which ultimately killed him. The kidnappers did not know this when they stopped in the forest near Wloclawek reservoir and a fierce discussion broke out over whether he should live or die.

The third kidnapper, former Lieutenant Waldemar Chemielewski, argued that the priest had been beaten enough to teach him a lesson. Piotrowski insisted: "No, it has to be the water."

Pekala says that at that moment, "I realized that the priest would have to die. It was no longer important at that stage whether the priest was alive or dead.

"I felt myself helpless. I stopped thinking. I wondered how it could have come to all this. But I said to myself that I must continue to obey."

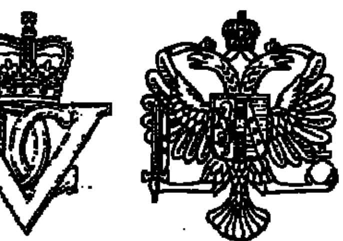
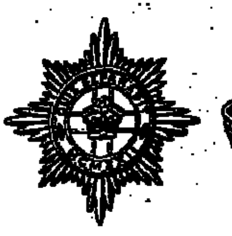
Pekala's defence case shifts much responsibility on to Piotrowski, and the strain was beginning to show yesterday on the former captain, much decorated for his services to the secret police. The onus will now be on him to prove that he received concerete orders from above and did not simply make up the existence of interest at high level to spur the other kidnappers.

Legal sources speculate that he may change the basis of his defence. Instead of staying silent, in the confidence that the Interior Minister and other sympathisers will look after him, he may now feel that it is in his interests to tell all.

The trial has been adjourned to January 2, when Pekala will continue his testimony.

300 years of glory, loyalty and service




Badges of the tercentenary regiments (from left); Royal Anglian Regiment, Queen's Royal Irish Hussars, Devonshire and Dorset Regiment, 5th Royal Inniskilling Dragoon Guards, 1st The Queen's Dragoon Guards, 4th/7th Royal Dragoon Guards, the Light Infantry and The Queen's Own Hussars.




Badges of The King's Regiment (left) and The Prince of Wales's Own Regiment of Yorkshire.

By Rodney Cowton, Defence Correspondent

A large part of the British Army will be celebrating its 300th anniversary next year.

Ten regiments and the band of the Grenadier Guards all reach their tercentenary next year. They all derive from the efforts of James II in 1685 to raise a standing army at the time of the rebellion by the Duke of Monmouth.

Between February 1685 and December that year he succeeded in more than doubling the strength of the Army from under 9,000 to nearly 20,000. It was one of the key phases in the development of the Army.

The regiments created at that time have since been subsumed within larger, modern regiments, but it is customary for regiments to date their lives from the birth of the oldest of their component parts.

All those that can claim descent fron 1685 will mark the anniversary with much receiving and exercising of freedom of cities, receiving of new standards, church services, royal occasions and parades.

The regiments will come together for a pageant to be held at the Royal Albert Hall in London on January 17.

Among the regiments celebrating next year will be the Royal Anglian Regiment, which has three regiments formed in 1685 among the seven from which it is descended.

Another is the Light Infantry which, because of social service rendered by one of its forebears to King George IV, is to this day not required to drink the loyal toast, its loyalty being deemed to have been adequately demonstrated.

Another regiment celebrating its 300th anniversary is The Queen's Royal Irish Hussars. It includes in its family tree the 4th Queen's Own Hussars, formed in 1685.

The other regiments marking their anniversary are the 1st The Queen's Dragoon Guards, 4th/7th Royal Dragoon Guards, 5th Royal Inniskilling Dragoon Guards, The Queen's Own Hussars, The King's Regiment, The Prince of Wales's Own Regiment of Yorkshire and the Devonshire and Dorset Regiment.

Two other regiments which are joining in the pageant at the Royal Albert Hall because they include regiments formed in 1685, but which celebrated their tercentenary some years ago on the strength of their association with units formed even earlier, are The Royal Scots Dragoon Guards and The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers.



1st The Queen's Dragoon Guards: Captain Nevill Smyth winning the VC at the Battle of Khartoum in 1898.




Corporal Philip Smith (left), Royal Anglians, and Lieutenant John Norwood, 5th Royal Inniskillings, winning their VCs by rescuing wounded comrades.

Letter from California

Cheap imports kill vintners' euphoria

A visit to our local wine shop illustrates the sad plight of the once euphoric California vintner. Top quality French champagnes are 30 to 40 per cent cheaper there than the better California sparkling wines, and the shelves are filled, not with select wines from the Napa and Sonoma valleys but with much cheaper imports from France and Italy.

The once-booming US wine industry is drowning in a sea of European imports. In California lately there have been few toasts drunk as vintners and grape growers experience the worst slump in their history. The usually bustling wine regions of California provide some 90 per cent of wine to the nation.

These are heady days for the wine consuming public, however, as they take advantage of the strong dollar, which has made foreign wines very cheap.

The wine boom has turned sour in California in more ways than just sales. There is also a huge surplus of grapes.

It was not always so. In the 1970s it was celebrations every year as Americans discovered the delights of the grape and the wine industry began to accelerate. In the past decade, to keep abreast of the growing demand, grape growers boosted their acreage by 26 per cent, to more than 363,000 acres.

It seemed that new wineries were opening up every week, producing wines as good as, and even better than, their high-priced foreign rivals. In Napa alone there are more than 150 wineries.

But two years ago, as the dollar grew stronger, Americans discovered foreign wines. In 1982 the growth of US wine production stopped and growers anticipating a continued demand suddenly found they had tons of ripened grapes, but nowhere to send them.

In central California, where more than three-quarters of the state's grape crop is grown, it was disastrous. Seedless grapes which had sold for $200 (£171) a ton in 1981 brought only $50, and many farmers were driven to the brink of bankruptcy.

Mr George Schofield, a former Mondavi Vineyard executive who is now a wine economist in St Helena, in the Napa Valley, says many "boutique" wineries are holding their own with top quality wines, but the larger winemakers are feeling the competition from the lower-priced French and Italian imports.

Foreign wines have boosted their share of the US market in 1984 to more than 25 per cent, compared with 13 per cent a decade ago.

Italy, for example, increased its 1984 shipments to 69 million gallons, from less than four million a decade ago.

Mr John Deluca, president of the US Wine Institute, puts it bluntly. "The consumer sees a fancy label at less than $2 and grabs it. The French are solving their overproduction by dumping their wine on the US market. You couldn't bottle water for the prices they are asking for wine."

But there is a glimmer of hope for California winemakers who for the first time in their short careers are having to battle bitterly for a chunk of the market they once monopolized. They are also having to bite their tongues and plunge into the fast-growing wine cooler market.

"It may be sacrilegious to the oenophile", says Mr Schofield, "but wine cooler (wine mixed with fruit juices and carbonated water) is where the big market is. They appeal to the upwardly mobile crowd and the young because they are only 6 per cent proof as opposed to 12 with wine. They are thirst quenchers, like beer, and they are being tried by many in the huge market of an estimated 130 million adults who do not usually drink wine."

Coolers may well be the salvation of the hard-hit wine industry. In 1984 US sales of wine increased by only 2.4 per cent over the previous year. If the coolers had not won a share of the market the wine business would have registered a 1.3 per cent drop.

Already there are 27 brands of wine cooler on the market, with new varieties coming out every week.

Ivor Davis

THE TIMES INFORMATION SERVICE

Today's events

Last chance to see

Blackburn in the Fifties: and 25 years of post war design; Museum and Art Gallery, Museum St, Blackburn. 9.30 to 6.

Music

Concert by the Scottish National Orchestra; City Hall, Glasgow, 7.30.

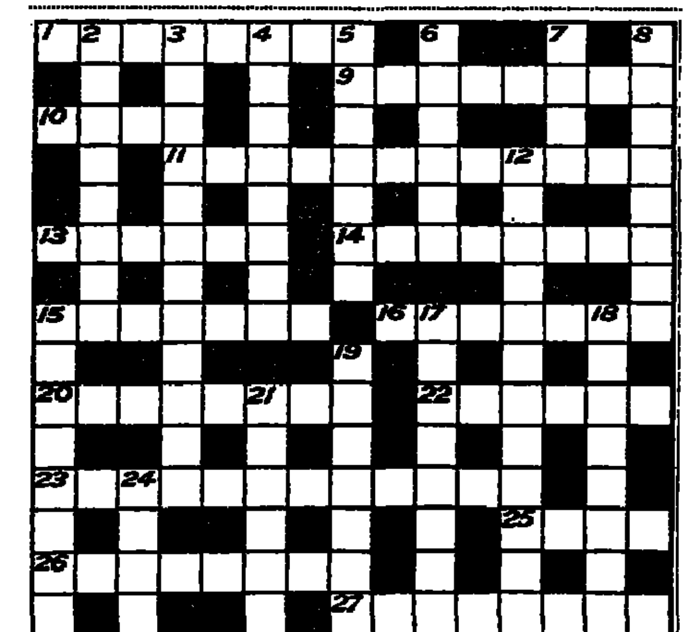
Exhibitions in progress

Christmas exhibition by Dame Laura Knight; Downstairs, Phoenix Gallery, Lavenham, Suffolk; Mon to Fri 10 to 5.30, Sat 10 to 6, Sun 2 to 6; (ends Jan 21)

Oil paintings by Richard Wallace, Ginnel Gallery, 16 Lloyd Street, Manchester; Mon to Fri 9 to 5.30, Sat 1 to 4; (ends Jan 11)

Original signed cartoons and illustrated playing cards; Cartoon Gallery Fulford Bookshop, 90 Main St, Fulford, York; Tues to Sat 10 to 5.30; (ends Jan 12).

British Studio Ceramics, Open Eye Gallery, 75 Cumberland Street, Edinburgh; Mon to Fri 10 to 6, Sat 10 to 4 (ends Jan 5).



Solution of Puzzle No 16,618 — Solution of Puzzle No 16,621

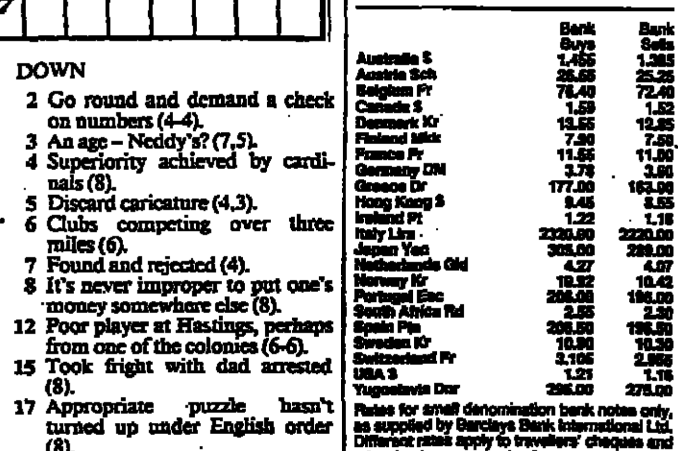
The Times Crossword Puzzle No 16,622

A prize of The Times Atlas of the World *(comprehensive edition) will be given for the first three correct solutions opened next Thursday. Entries should be addressed to: The Times, Saturday Crossword Competition, 12 Coley Street, London WC99 9YT. The winners and solution will be published next Saturday.*

Owing to delays in the Christmas mail, the winners of competition 16,618 will not be published until next week.

Name...

Address...



ACROSS
1 Treading slippery slope (8).
9 Sufficient notes correspond (8).
10 Aircraft not initially easy to design (4).
11 No Heads are undertaking reorganization in school (12).
13 Tin that's found in a hole in the ground (6).
14 Escape involves a rather trifling inconvenience (4-4).
15 Sketch turned out finally – a city with mountain (7).
16 Please make it dark? (7).
20 Possibly avenge it, possibly not (8).
22 Take care when fighting interrupts meeting (6).
23 Czars greatly mistaken in seer (7-5).
25 Look round in the dance (4).
26 Old Italian pottery has a name (8).
27 Colour to run? What a pest! (8).

DOWN
2 Go round and demand a check on numbers (4-4).
3 An age – Neddy's? (7,5).
4 Superiority achieved by cardinals (8).
5 Discard caricature (4,3).
6 Clubs competing over three miles (6).
7 Found and rejected (4).
8 It's never improper to put one's money somewhere else (8).
12 Poor player at Hastings, perhaps from one of the colonies (6-6).
15 Took fright with dad arrested (8).
17 Appropriate puzzle hasn't turned up under English order (8).
18 A bloomer, taking part in such a rebellion (8).
19 Asking crooner to accept an Easter gift (7).
21 Centre-halves with ball kick leaning forwards (6).
24 Thread of the story (4).

CONCISE CROSSWORD PAGE 13

Tomorrow

Last chance to see

Views of Stirling: etchings by Mary-Louise Colouris; Stirling Smith Art Gallery and Museum, 40 Albert Place, Stirling; 2 to 5.

Cadbury's National Children's Art; Art Gallery, Schoolhill, Aberdeen; 2 to 5.

Music

Handel's Messiah by Philomusica of Gloucestershire; Tetbury Parish Church, Glos, 6.

Carol service; Canterbury Cathedral, 3.

Service of nine lessons and carols; Church of St Peter, Bexhill, 6.

Anniversaries

TODAY

Births: Andrew Johnson, 17th president of the USA 1865-69, Raleigh, North Carolina, 1808; William Ewart Gladstone, prime miniester 1868-74, 1880-85, 1886, 1892-94, Liverpool, 1809.

Deaths: Jacques-Louis David, painter, Brussels, 1825; Christina Rossetti, poet, London, 1894; Rainer Maria Rilke, poet, Valmont, Switzerland, 1926.

Today is the Feast of Saint Thomas Becket who was born 1118 (?). In 1155 Henry II made himm Chancellor. In 1162 he was elected Archbishop of Canterbury. On December 29 1170 he was assassinated in his cathedral. In 1173 he was canonized by Pope Alexander III and the following year Henry II did public penance at his tomb.

TOMORROW

Rudyard Kipling was born at Bombay, 1865.

Deaths: Robert Boyle, chemist, London, 1691; Sir Samuel White Baker, explorer, Sanford Orleigh, Devon, 1893; Alfred North Whitehead, mathematician and philosopher, Cambridge, Massachusetts, 1947; Trygve Lie, first secretary-general of the United Nations, Geilo, Norway, 1968.

The pound

	Bank Buys	Bank Sells
Australia $	1.455	1.385
Austria Sch	26.65	25.25
Belgium Fr	76.40	72.40
Canada $	1.59	1.52
Denmark Kr	13.55	12.85
Finland Mkk	7.90	7.58
France Fr	11.56	11.00
Germany DM	3.78	3.60
Greece Dr	177.00	163.00
Hong Kong $	9.45	8.55
Ireland Pt	1.22	1.16
Italy Lira	2320.00	2220.00
Japan Yen	305.00	289.00
Netherlands Gld	4.27	4.07
Norway Kr	10.92	10.42
Portugal Esc	208.00	196.00
South Africa Rd	2.55	2.30
Spain Pta	206.50	196.50
Sweden Kr	10.80	10.30
Switzerland Fr	3.105	2.955
USA $	1.21	1.16
Yugoslavia Dnr	296.00	275.00

Rates for small denomination bank notes only, as supplied by Barclays Bank International Ltd. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques and other foreign currency business.

Retail Price Index: 358.8.

London: *The FT Index closed up 16.2 at 945.2.*

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Roads

London and South-east: A406: Roadworks on North Circular Rd at Hall Lane, Chingford. A13: Roadworks on Ripple Rd (A13) junction Lodge Ave, Dagenham. A1112: Roadworks on Rainham Rd South, Dagenham: 2 southbound lanes closed N of Western Ave; single line traffic prior to this location to allow large vehicles to pass through.

The Midlands: A12: Temporary signals between Lowestoft and Oxford at Wrentham, Suffolk. A57: Only one lane with temporary lights near Lincoln Racecourse. A1: Lane closures northbound at junction 14, Alconbury flyover, Cambebridgeshire.

The North: A6125: Roadworks on Great North Rd, Newcastle: delays. A5805: New bridge being built near Waterloo Park, Preston, on Blackpool Rd. A582: Sankey Brook, Warrington; single lane; severe delays.

Wales and West: A30: Temporary lights from Oakhampton to Launceston, at various locations. A31: Stop/go boards in Bere Regis at Foger Hill. A481: Swindon: Northbound carriageways closed on Stratton St Margaret bypass; contraflow on southbound carriageway; alternative routes signed.

Scotland: A1: Bypass construcitoon W of Tranent: traffic lights in use for movement of heavy vehicles as required. A74: City of Glasgow: Roadworks on London Rd between Mount Vernon Rd and Carmyle Ave: westbound inside lane closed, 14 hours. A978: City of Aberdeen: Road closed at Waverly Place and Albert St.

Information supplied by the AA

Rail services

British Rail are operating special services for the New Year holiday:

December 29: Normal Saturday service.
December 30: Normal Sunday service with some trains retimed for a faster journey.
December 31: Saturday service with additional peak hour trains on commuter routes; no overnight trains.
January 1: Saturday service on InterCity routes in England and Wales; Sunday service on other lines; no service in Scotland.
January 2: Normal Wednesday service in England and Wales; only long distance trains in Scotland.

Passengers are advised to check their train times before travelling. For those travelling longer distances, seats can be reserved on most trains. On some services usual catering facilities will not be available. Full details of alterations to train services available from main British Rail stations and travel centres.

Travel information

British Telecom's pre-recorded Traveline service gives regularly updated information on travel in Britain and on the Continent, including details of weather conditions, strikes or other problems likely to affect travellers. Rail: 01-246 8030; Road (including coach services) 01-246 8031; Sea: 01-246 8032; Air: 01-246 8033. For regional codes, see front of dialing code booklets.

Cheap-rate calls

Cheap-rate calls over the New Year period are now available until 8am January 2. The reductions cover local, national and most direct dialled international calls.

Our address

Information for inclusion in The Times Information Service should be sent to: Sally-Anne Wilkins, TTIS, The Times, PO Box 7, 200 Gray's Inn Road, London WC1X 8EZ.

In the garden

Birds are turning their attention to ornamental berries, also flower buds on fruit trees and ornamental trees and bushes. A pair of finches can strip a plum tree of buds in a couple of days. Criss-crossing trees and bushes if possible with black cotton can minimize the damage, or spraying with Stayoff should persuade the birds to go elsewhere. The spray may need to be repeated after four weeks.

If there are dahlia tubers in store look at them every three or four weeks. If they are shrivelling, put them in a bucket of tepid water for 24 hours indoors or in a heated greenhouse, to plump up again.

RH

Red Squirrel watch

London zoo's experimental reintroduction of native red squirrels into Regent's Park is two months old, and the 10 animals released seem to be holding their own against the American greys that so outnumber them.

Christmas strollers in Regent's Park who see any red squirrels are asked to write to the Zoo, saying where the squirrel was seen, the date and the time, and what it was doing when sighted.

A leaflet about the project is available by post or to Zoo visitors. Red Squirrel Watch, London Zoo, Regent's Park, London NW1 4RY.

Sales

Details of sales in London and best buys are in today's Saturday section, page 11.

Portfolio

Portfolio – how to play

Monday–Saturday record your daily Portfolio total.

Add these together to determine your weekly Portfolio total.

If your total matches the published weekly dividend figure you have won outright or a share of the prize money stated for that week, and must claim your prize as instructed below.

How to claim

Telephone The Times Portfolio claims line 0254-53272 between 10.00 am and 3.30 pm, on the day your overall total matches The Times Portfolio Dividend. No claims can be accepted outside these hours.

You must have your card with you when you telephone.

If you are unable to telephone someone else can claim on your behalf but they must have your card and call The Times Portfolio claims line between the stipulated times.

No responsibility can be accepted for failure to contact the claims office for any reason within the stated hours.

The above instructions are applicable to both daily and weekly dividend claims.

● Some Times Portfolio cards include minor misprints in the instructions on the reverse side. These cards are not invalidated.

● The wording of Rules 2 and 3 has been expanded from earlier versions for clarification purposes. The Game itself is not affected and will continue to be played in exactly the same way as before.

Snow reports

	Depth (cm) L	Depth (cm) U	Conditions Piste	Conditions Off Piste	Runs to resort	Weather (5 pm)	°C
Avoriaz	60	80	Worn	Varied	Fair	Fine	−5
Crans-Montana	5	70	Good	Powder	Closed	Fine	0
Davos	25	100	Good	Powder	Closed	Sun	−5
Flaine	39	100	Poor	Heavy	Poor	Fair	−6
Kitsbühel	5	15	Worn	Varied	Fair	Fine	8
Megeve	15	40	Fair	Fair	Poor	Fine	−7
Sauze d'Oulx	10	40	Varied	Good	Fair	Cloud	−3
Verbier	20	80	Poor	Powder	Poor	Fine	−3
Wengen	25	70	Fair	Powder	Fair	Fog	−3

Weather

A weak trough of low pressure will move into W districts.

London, SE, E England, East Anglia, E Midlands: Dry, fog at first thinning, sunny intervals developing; wind variable becoming S light; max temp 6C (43F), but cold where fog persists.

Central S, central N, NE England, W Midlands: rather cloudy, dry at first, a little rain or drizzle later; wind S light to moderate; max temp 6C (43F).

Channel Islands: Rather cloudy; dry, some bright or sunny intervals; wind S light; max temp 8C (46F).

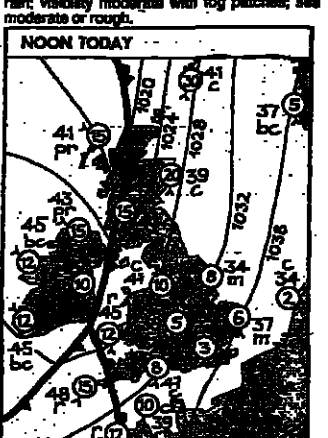
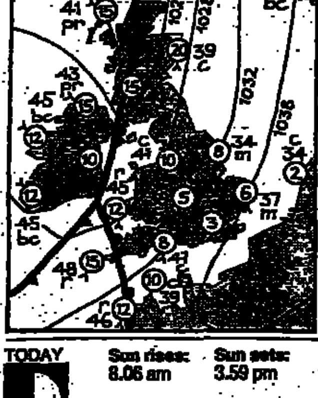
SW, NW England, S, N Wales, Lake District, Isle of Man: Mostly cloudy, occasional rain or drizzle; wind moderate or fresh; max temp 9C (48F).

Borders, Edinburgh, Dundee, Aberdeen, SW Scotland, Glasgow, Central Highlands, Moray Firth, Orkney, Shetlands: Mostly cloudy, occasional rain or drizzle in places; wind S moderate or fresh; max temp 7C (45F).

Argyll, NW Scotland, Northern Ireland: Cloudy; occasional rain, brighter drier for a time; wind S mostly moderate; max temp 8C (46F).

Outlook for tomorrow and Monday: Rather cloudy with outbreaks of rain or drizzle in N and W districts spreading to some other districts later; elsewhere bright or sunny intervals developing after overnight fog patches; temperatures near normal in the N and W, otherwise rather cold with overnight frost.

SEA PASSAGES: S North Sea, Strait of Dover: Wind S light, becoming moderate or fresh; mainly fair; visibility moderate with coastal fog patches; sea smooth becoming moderate. English Channel (E): Wind S moderate or fresh; occasional rain later; visibility moderate or poor; sea moderate. St George's Channel, Irish Sea: Wind S fresh or strong; occasional rain; visibility moderate with fog patches; sea moderate or rough.

NOON TODAY

TODAY — Sun rises: 8.06 am; Sun sets: 3.59 pm; Moon rises: 11.56 am; Moon sets: 11.47 pm. First quarter: tomorrow.

TOMORROW — Sun rises: 8.06 am; Sun sets: 4.00 pm; Moon rises: 12.08 pm; Moon sets: 12.55 am tomorrow. First quarter: 5.27 am.

Lighting-up time

TODAY
London 4.29 pm to 7.36 am
Bristol 4.39 pm to 7.46 am
Edinburgh 4.15 pm to 8.14 am
Manchester 4.27 pm to 7.55 am
Penzance 4.58 pm to 7.51 am

TOMORROW
London 4.30 pm to 7.36 am
Bristol 4.40 pm to 7.46 am
Edinburgh 4.17 pm to 8.14 am
Manchester 4.28 pm to 7.55 am
Penzance 4.59 pm to 7.51 am

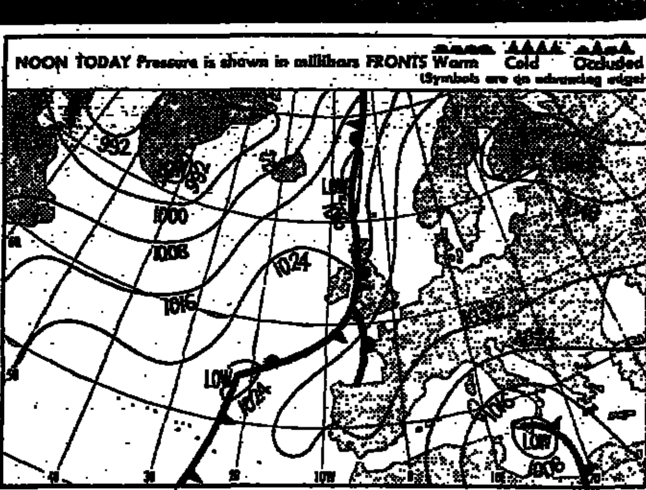
Yesterday

Temperatures at midday yesterday: c, cloud; f, fair; r, rain; s, sun.

		C	F			C	F
Belfast	c	7	45	Guernsey	c	3	37
Birmingham	c	2	36	Inverness	s	4	39
Blackpool	c	3	37	Jersey	c	3	37
Bristol	c	5	41	London	fg	3	37
Cardiff	c	5	41	Manchester	s	5	41
Edinburgh	dr	2	38	Newcastle	c	1	34
Glasgow	dr	4	39	Ronaldsway	c	9	48

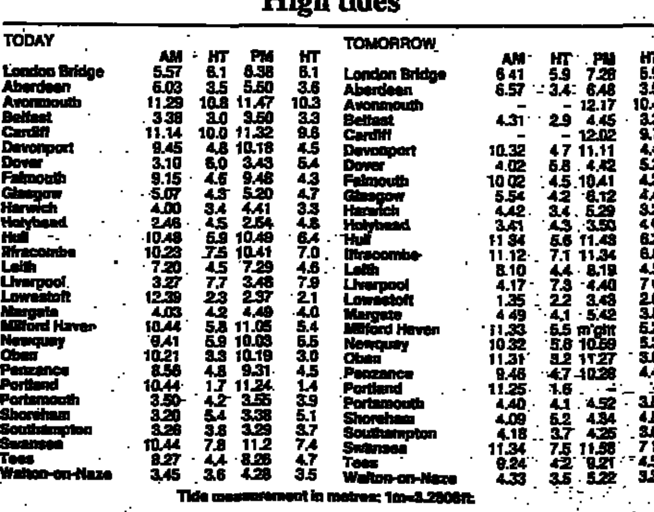
Highest and lowest

Yesterday: Highest day temperature: Gwennap Head 12C (54F); lowest day max: Leeming 0C (32F); highest rainfall: Benbecula 0.19in; highest sunshine: Tenby 5.6hrs.



NOON TODAY Pressure is shown in millibars FRONTS Warm Cold Occluded (Symbols are on advancing edge)

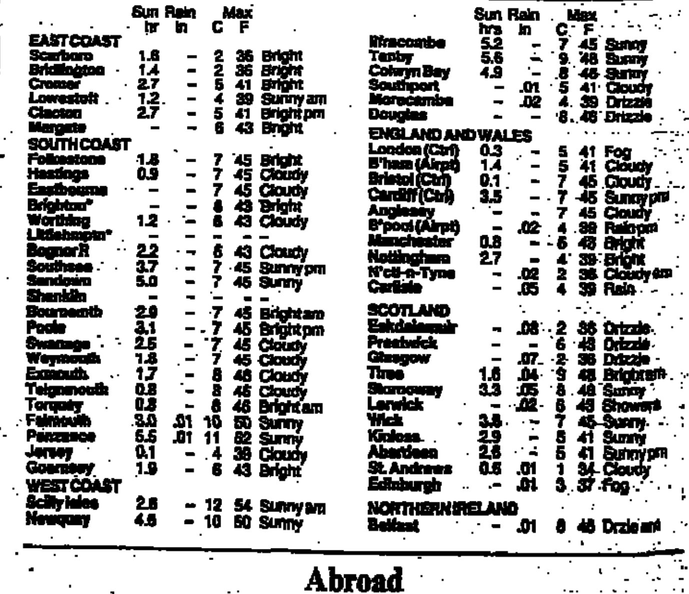
High tides



TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT	TOMORROW	AM	HT	PM	HT
London Bridge	5.57	6.1	6.38	6.1	London Bridge	6.41	5.9	7.26	5.9
Aberdeen	6.03	3.5	5.50	3.6	Aberdeen	6.57	3.4	6.48	3.5
Avonmouth	11.29	10.8	11.47	10.3	Avonmouth	–	–	12.17	10.4
Belfast	3.38	3.0	3.50	3.3	Belfast	4.31	2.9	4.45	3.2
Cardiff	11.14	10.0	11.32	9.6	Cardiff	–	–	12.02	9.7
Devonport	9.45	4.8	10.18	4.5	Devonport	10.32	4.7	11.11	4.4
Dover	3.10	6.0	3.43	5.4	Dover	4.02	5.8	4.42	5.2
Falmouth	9.15	4.6	9.48	4.3	Falmouth	10.02	4.5	10.41	4.2
Glasgow	5.07	4.3	5.20	4.7	Glasgow	5.54	4.2	6.12	4.4
Harwich	4.00	3.4	4.41	3.3	Harwich	4.42	3.4	5.29	3.2
Holyhead	2.46	4.5	2.54	4.8	Holyhead	3.41	4.3	3.50	4.6
Hull	10.48	5.9	10.49	6.4	Hull	11.34	5.6	11.48	6.2
Ilfracombe	10.23	7.5	10.41	7.0	Ilfracombe	11.12	7.1	11.34	6.8
Leith	7.20	4.5	7.29	4.6	Leith	8.10	4.4	8.19	4.5
Liverpool	3.27	7.7	3.48	7.9	Liverpool	4.17	7.3	4.40	7.6
Lowestoft	12.39	2.3	2.37	2.1	Lowestoft	1.35	2.2	3.43	2.0
Margate	4.03	4.2	4.49	4.0	Margate	4.49	4.1	5.42	3.8
Milford Haven	10.44	5.8	11.05	5.4	Milford Haven	11.33	5.5	m'ght	5.2
Newquay	9.41	5.9	10.03	5.5	Newquay	10.32	5.8	10.59	5.3
Oban	10.21	3.3	10.19	3.0	Oban	11.31	3.2	11.27	3.0
Penzance	8.58	4.8	9.31	4.5	Penzance	9.46	4.7	10.28	4.4
Portland	10.44	1.7	11.24	1.4	Portland	11.25	1.6	–	–
Portsmouth	3.50	4.2	3.55	3.9	Portsmouth	4.40	4.1	4.52	3.8
Shoreham	3.20	5.4	3.38	5.1	Shoreham	4.09	5.2	4.34	4.8
Southampton	3.26	3.8	3.29	3.7	Southampton	4.18	3.7	4.25	3.6
Swansea	10.44	7.8	11.2	7.4	Swansea	11.34	7.5	11.58	7.1
Tees	8.27	4.4	8.26	4.7	Tees	9.24	4.2	9.21	4.5
Walton-on-Naze	3.45	3.6	4.28	3.5	Walton-on-Naze	4.33	3.5	5.22	3.3

Tide measurement in metres: 1m=3.2808ft.

Around Britain



	Sun hr	Rain in	Max C	Max F			Sun hrs	Rain in	Max C	Max F	
EAST COAST						Ilfracombe	5.2	–	7	45	Sunny
Scarboro	1.6	–	2	36	Bright	Tenby	5.6	–	9	48	Sunny
Bridlington	1.4	–	2	36	Bright	Colwyn Bay	4.9	–	8	46	Sunny
Cromer	2.7	–	5	41	Bright	Southport	–	.01	5	41	Cloudy
Lowestoft	1.2	–	4	39	Sunny am	Morecambe	–	.02	4	39	Drizzle
Clacton	2.7	–	5	41	Bright pm	Douglas	–	–	8	46	Drizzle
Margate	–	–	6	43	Bright	ENGLAND AND WALES					
SOUTH COAST						London (Ctrl)	0.3	–	5	41	Fog
Folkestone	1.8	–	7	45	Bright	B'ham (Airpt)	1.4	–	5	41	Cloudy
Hastings	0.9	–	7	45	Cloudy	Bristol (Ctrl)	0.1	–	7	45	Cloudy
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

Abroad

MIDDAY: c, cloud; d, drizzle; f, fair; fg, fog; r, rain; s, sun; sn, snow.

[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

هكذا من الاصل